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BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Yasunobu IWATA, Taku WATANABE,
Shigeki YAMADA, Hiroyasu KIMURA, Teruyuki HARADA
and Tomoko NAKAMURA
LADDER CIRCUIT EDITING SYSTEM
Our Ref. Q61090

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including 44 pages of specification, claims and Abstract, 28 sheets of formal drawing (Figures 1-38), executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form, executed Declaration/Power of Attorney, and an Information Disclosure Statement.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	4 - 20	=		x	\$18.00	=	\$0.00
Independent claims	1 - 3	=		x	\$80.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee							\$710.00
TOTAL FILING FEE							\$710.00
Recordation of Assignment							\$40.00
TOTAL FEE							\$750.00

PLEASE NOTE: This application is being filed as a Continuation of PCT/JP98/03402 pursuant to MPEP §§1895 and 1896.

Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$710.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$40.00 are attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

There is no claim to priority.

Respectfully submitted,
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SPECIFICATION

LADDER CIRCUIT EDITING SYSTEM

Cross Reference to Related Application

This is a continuation of International Application PCT/JP98/03402, with an international filing date of July 30, 1998, the contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference into the present application.

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a programmable controller for controlling mechanical facilities, or more particularly, to a ladder circuit editing system for programming a ladder circuit (ladder diagram) for the programmable controller.

Background Art

Fig. 7 shows an example of a typical sequence program described in the form of a ladder diagram. For controlling mechanical facilities according to a sequence of events, a programmable controller has been employed in the past. A generally adopted method of programming the programmable controller employs a ladder diagram shown in Fig. 7.

Many portions of the ladder diagram often express similar circuits resulting from repetition of a circuit. The similar circuits are different from one another in terms of variables such as contacts or coils. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 4-286002 has disclosed a system for configuring and editing a sequence program consisting of descriptions of similar circuits resulting from repetition of a circuit that is regarded as a repetitive circuit and that has variables thereof alone varied regularly. Some systems including the disclosed system have a copying facility. When a basic unit circuit pattern and a rule on regular variation of a variable are designated, the copying facility autonomously repeats copying of the basic unit, and autonomously varies the variable according to the rule. The repetitive circuit is thus automatically repeated, and the results of automatic production are expressed in the form of a ladder diagram.

Furthermore, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2-5102 has disclosed a system having the ability to store basic unit circuit patterns and rules on regular variation of variables in the form of a library in a memory or an external storage device, and to select and read a specific circuit pattern from the library in the memory or external storage device if necessary. A ladder diagram is thus automatically produced.

However, according to the foregoing related arts, an operator must intentionally extract or store a basic unit circuit pattern. This is inconvenient. Moreover, when a basic unit circuit pattern registered in advance is used to edit a sequence program, an operator must select the intended basic unit circuit pattern from numerous basic unit circuit patterns stored in the form of a library. As the number of registered basic unit circuit patterns increases, it gets uneasy to judge which of the registered circuit patterns represents a circuit for performing what processing. Moreover, a predetermined auxiliary storage device allocated to a programming system must be entirely searched for the intended basic unit circuit pattern. This is inconvenient for an operator.

Furthermore, even if a plurality of basic unit circuit patterns is registered in advance, the registered patterns are not always employed. The plurality of basic unit circuit patterns compresses the storage capacity of the auxiliary storage device, and some circuit patterns may remain unused. This makes it hard to improve efficiency in program design.

The present invention attempts to solve the foregoing problems. An object of the present invention is to provide a ladder circuit editing system capable of autonomously retrieving analogous ladder diagrams without bothering an

operator with extra work, and improving efficiency in designing a ladder diagram without wasting the storage capacity of an auxiliary storage device.

Disclosure of Invention

A ladder circuit editing system in accordance with the present invention inputs and edits a sequence program for a program controller in the form of a ladder diagram, has an unavailable area and an available area, and successively inputs circuit patterns stored in the available area. At least one circuit pattern that has been input is stored in the unavailable area, and a new circuit pattern is entered in the available area. The ladder circuit editing system comprises a circuit pattern extracting means, a display means, and a copying means. The circuit pattern extracting means compares a circuit element contained in a circuit pattern being stored in the available area with a circuit element contained in a circuit pattern already stored in the unavailable area, and extracts a circuit pattern containing a circuit element that agrees with a stored one. The display means displays the circuit pattern extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means on an input screen. The copying means copies the circuit pattern extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means into the available area according to an operator's entry.

Moreover, the display means successively displays a plurality of circuit patterns extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means. The copying means copies any circuit pattern selected based on an operator's entry from among the plurality of successively displayed circuit patterns into the available area.

Moreover, the display means displays a previously selected circuit pattern as a top priority.

The ladder circuit editing system further includes a selected circuit pattern address storage area and a replacing means. The address of a previously selected circuit pattern is stored in the selected circuit pattern address storage area. The replacing means places the address of a selected circuit pattern at the head of the selected circuit pattern address storage area. The display means displays as a top priority a previously selected circuit pattern according to the order of addresses stored in the selected circuit pattern address storage area.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing equipment constituting a ladder circuit editing system in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 shows divisions of a ladder diagram;

Fig. 3 shows the structure of a memory defined in a

memory in which a ladder diagram is held, that is, a character memory;

Fig. 4 shows the structure of each location in the character memory;

Fig. 5 shows the internal data structure of a symbol area;

Fig. 6 shows an example of a code specified in a command code division;

Fig. 7 shows an example of a typical sequence program expressed in the form of a ladder diagram;

Fig. 8 shows the structure of a memory defined in a memory in which a ladder diagram is held, that is, a character memory;

Fig. 9 shows the ladder diagram, which is shown in Fig. 7, having part of additional circuit elements added thereto;

Fig. 10 shows the structure of a memory defined in a memory in which a ladder diagram is held, that is, a character memory;

Fig. 11 shows a compared location table defined in a memory when the system carries out retrieval;

Fig. 12 shows a compared location table defined in a memory when the system carries out retrieval;

Fig. 13 shows the structure of a retrieval character memory in which circuit elements contained a ladder diagram and to be compared with stored ones are temporarily saved;

Fig. 14 is a flowchart describing a main program Retrieval;

Fig. 15 is a flowchart describing a subroutine Activation Condition Division Retrieval;

Fig. 16 is a flowchart describing a subroutine Interlock Division Retrieval;

Fig. 17 is a flowchart describing a subroutine Output Division Retrieval;

Fig. 18 is a flowchart describing a subroutine Next Circuit Pattern Retrieval;

Fig. 19 is a flowchart describing a subroutine Consistent Pattern Processing;

Fig. 20 shows an example of a message to be displayed on a CRT when a pattern agrees with a stored one;

Fig. 21 shows a ladder diagram resulting from copying of data stored in a retrieval character memory into a character memory;

Fig. 22 shows how the ladder diagram shown in Fig. 21 is stored in the character memory;

Fig. 23 shows another example of a ladder diagram;

Fig. 24 shows the character memory in which a ladder diagram is stored;

Fig. 25 shows the ladder diagram, which is shown in Fig. 23, having part of additional circuit elements added thereto;

Fig. 26 shows the structure of a memory defined in a memory in which a ladder diagram is stored, that is, a character memory;

Fig. 27 shows the structure of a character memory in which a ladder diagram to be compared with a stored one is temporarily saved;

Fig. 28 shows the structure of a character memory in which a ladder diagram to be compared with a stored one is temporarily saved;

Fig. 29 is a flowchart describing a main program Retrieval;

Fig. 30 is a flowchart describing a subroutine Consistent Pattern Processing;

Fig. 31 shows an example of a message to be displayed on a CRT when a pattern agrees with a stored one;

Fig. 32 shows a table that is a circuit pattern storage destination list;

Fig. 33 shows a circuit pattern storage area;

Fig. 34 shows a circuit pattern position table;

Fig. 35 shows a circuit pattern position character memory table;

Fig. 36 is a flowchart describing a main program Retrieval;

Fig. 37 is a flowchart describing a subroutine Consistent Pattern Processing; and

Fig. 38 is a flowchart describing a subroutine Circuit Pattern Replacement.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Examples of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings below.

EXAMPLE 1

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing equipment constituting a ladder circuit editing system in accordance with the present invention. In Fig. 1, reference numeral 0101 denotes a ladder circuit editing system, 0102 denotes a CRT, 0103 denotes a keyboard, and 0104 denotes an auxiliary storage device. Reference numeral 0105 denotes a processing unit, 0106 denotes a screen control unit, 0107 denotes a key entry control unit, 0108 denotes an auxiliary storage device control unit, 0109 denotes a memory, and 10110 denotes a function key.

Fig. 2 shows divisions of a ladder diagram. In Fig. 2, reference numeral 0201 denotes a ladder diagram. The details of the ladder diagram will be described later. The ladder diagram 0201 has a right generatrix 0202, an activation condition division 0203, an interlock division 0204, an output division 0205, and a right generatrix 0206.

Fig. 3 shows the structure of a memory (hereinafter referred to as a character memory) defined in a memory 0109

in which a ladder diagram 0201 is stored. Referring to Fig. 3, reference numeral 0301 denotes a character memory defined at a predetermined location in the memory 0109.

Fig. 4 shows the structure of each location in the character memory 1. Referring to Fig. 4, reference numeral 0401 denotes a device number area and 0402 denotes a symbol area.

Fig. 5 shows the internal data structure of the symbol area 0402. Referring to Fig. 5, reference numeral 0403 denotes a command code division and 0404 denotes a branch designation division.

Fig. 6 shows an example of a code to be specified in the command code division 0403.

Fig. 7 shows an example of a ladder diagram. Referring to Fig. 7, reference numeral 0501 denotes a ladder diagram.

Fig. 8 shows the structure of a character memory defined in the memory 0109 in which a ladder diagram 0501 is stored. Referring to Fig. 8, reference numeral 0601 denotes a character memory defined at a predetermined location in the memory 0109.

Fig. 9 shows the ladder diagram, which is shown in Fig. 7, having part of additional circuit elements added thereto. Referring to Fig. 9, reference numeral 0701 denotes a ladder diagram and 0702 denotes an additional circuit block.

Fig. 10 shows the structure of a memory defined in the

memory 0109 in which a ladder diagram 0701 is stored, that is, a character memory. Referring to Fig. 10, reference numerals 0801 and 0802 denote character memories defined at predetermined locations in the memory 0109. The character memory 0801 serves as an unavailable area in which at least one circuit patterns has been input is stored. The character memory 0802 is a character memory allocated to the additional circuit block 0702 and serves as an available area in which a new circuit pattern is stored.

Fig. 11 shows a compared location table to be defined in the memory 0109 when the system performs retrieval. Referring to Fig. 11, reference numeral 0901 denotes a compared location table indicating a location in the character memory 0801 whose data is being edited. 0902 denotes a row number area in the compared location table 0901, and 0903 denotes a column number area in the compared location table 0901.

Fig. 12 shows a compared location table to be defined in the memory 0109 when the system performed retrieval. Referring to Fig. 12, reference numeral 0904 denotes a retrieved location table indicating a location in the character memory 0801 from which data is being retrieved. 0905 denotes a row number area in the retrieved location table 0904, and 0906 denotes a column number area in the retrieved location table 0904.

Fig. 13 shows the structure of a retrieval character memory in which circuit elements to be contained in a ladder diagram and to be compared with stored ones are temporarily saved. Referring to Fig. 13, reference numeral 1001 denotes a retrieval character memory, and 1002 denotes a device number area in the retrieval character memory 1001.

Fig. 14, Fig. 15, Fig. 16, Fig. 17, Fig. 18, and Fig. 19 are flowcharts describing processing to be performed by the processing unit 0105. Fig. 20 shows an example of a message to be displayed on a CRT when a pattern agrees with a stored one. Referring to Fig. 20, reference numeral 1301 denotes a message.

Fig. 21 shows a ladder diagram updated because a pattern agrees with a stored one. Referring to Fig. 21, reference numeral 1310 denotes a ladder diagram updated because a pattern agrees with a stored one.

Fig. 22 shows a character memory updated because a pattern agrees with a stored one. Referring to Fig. 22, reference numeral 1311 denotes a character memory allocated to a ladder diagram 1310.

Next, actions will be described. In general, a ladder diagram has, as shown in Fig. 2, the activation condition division 0203 located by the right side of the left generatrix 0202, and has the output division 0205 located by the left side of the right generatrix 0206. Moreover, the

interlock division 0204 is interposed between the activation condition division 0203 and output division 0205. The ladder diagram 0201 is thus structured.

For editing the ladder diagram, the ladder circuit editing system 0101 shown in Fig. 1 is employed. First, an entry is made using the keys of the keyboard 0103. A symbol indicating a command associated with the entry is displayed on the screen of the CRT 0102. The data of the symbol is stored in the memory 0109. The storage region in the memory 0109 is referred to as a character memory as mentioned above. The character memory has the structure shown in Fig. 3. The character memory 0301 has the same structure as an image shown on the screen. A location in the character memory 0301 can be indicated with a row number and a column number.

Each location in the character memory 0301 is, as shown in Fig. 4, composed of a symbol area 0402 in which a symbol indicating a command is specified, and a device number area 0401 in which a device number is specified. The symbol area 0402 has the internal structure shown in Fig. 5, and consists internally of a command code division 0403 and a branch designation division 0404. Data to be specified in the command code division 0403 is, for example, a value listed in the code table 0405 relevant to the command code division shown in Fig. 6.

For example, patterns specified in the activation

condition division 0203 of the ladder diagram 0201 shown in Fig. 2 have relevant data stored at locations (1, 1) and (2, 1) in the character memory 0301 shown in Fig. 3. As for data at the location (1, 1), four bits specified in the command code division 0403 as shown in Fig. 5 indicate command code 0. Four bits specified in the branch designation division 0404 indicate that a branch grows downward. Consequently, the data at the location (1, 1) represents 00000100B. As for data at the location (2, 1), four bits specified in the command code division 0403 indicate command code 0, and four bits specified in the branch designation division 0404 indicate that a branch grows upwards. Consequently, the data at the position (2, 1) represents 00001000B.

Assume that the ladder diagram 0501 shown in Fig. 7 has already been input, and the character memory 0601 allocated to the ladder diagram 0501 has been, as shown in Fig. 8, defined in the memory 0109. A description will be made of addition of the additional circuit block 0702 to the ladder diagram 501 (Fig. 9). Addition of the additional circuit block 0702 changes the character memory 0601 as shown in Fig. 10. The character memory consists of, as mentioned above, the character memory 0801 serving as an unavailable area and the character memory 0802 serving as an available area.

In this state, the keyboard 0103 is used to issue a

Retrieve instruction. The Retrieve instruction is issued with a press of, for example, the function key 0110 on the keyboard 0103. With the press of the function key 0110, row number 5 of the available area 0802 shown in Fig. 10 is specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901 shown in Fig. 11. Retrieval is then started.

Retrieval is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 14. Broadly, first, it is checked whether a pattern specified in the activation condition division 0203 agrees with a stored one. Secondly, it is checked whether a pattern specified in the interlock division 0204 agrees with a stored one. Finally, it is checked whether a pattern specified in the output division 0205 agrees with a stored one. The main routine Retrieval will be described in conjunction with the flowchart of Fig. 14. When Retrieval is started, first, 0 is specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904 at step 11100. Next Circuit Block Retrieval is executed at step 11101. The subroutine Next Circuit Block Retrieval will be detailed later. Activation Condition Division Retrieval is executed at step 11102. The subroutine Activation Condition Division Retrieval will be detailed later.

It is judged at step 11103 whether a pattern agrees with a stored one. If the pattern agrees with the stored

one, Interlock Division Retrieval is executed at step 11104. The subroutine Interlock Division Retrieval will be detailed later. It is then judged at step 11105 whether a pattern agrees with a stored one. If the pattern agrees with the stored one, Output Division Retrieval is executed at step 11106. The subroutine Output Division Retrieval will be detailed later. It is then judged at step 11107 whether a pattern agrees with a stored one. If the pattern agrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 11108. Consistent Pattern Processing is executed and the main routine is terminated. The subroutine Consistent Pattern Processing will be described later.

If it is judged at step 11103 that the pattern disagrees with the stored one, Interlock Division Retrieval is executed at step 11109. If it is judged at step 11110 that the pattern agrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 11108. Consistent Pattern Processing is then executed and the main routine is terminated. If it is judged at step 11110 that the pattern disagrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 11111. Output Division Retrieval is executed. If it is judged at step 11112 that the pattern agrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 11108. Consistent Pattern Processing is then executed and the main routine is terminated. If it is judged at step 11112 that the pattern disagrees with the

stored one, Next Circuit Block Retrieval is executed at step 11113. It is judged at step 11114 whether data is found. If no data is found, the main routine is terminated. If data is found, control is passed to step 11102 and the main routine is repeated.

Activation Condition Division Retrieval mentioned in the flowchart of Fig. 14 is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 15. First, (1, 1) is specified for a retrieval start location (L, C) at step 11201. The value specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901 and 1 are specified for (Lc, Cc) at step 11202. At step 11203, data specified in the symbol area 0402 at the location (L, C) in the retrieval character memory 1001 is compared with data specified in the symbol area 0402 at the location (Lc, Cc) in the character memory 0801.

It is judged at step 11204 whether the data items agree with each other. If the data items disagree with each other, Lc is compared with the value specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901. If Lc agrees with the value, it is judged at step 11206 that a pattern disagrees with a stored one, the subroutine is terminated. If it is judged at step 11205 that Lc disagrees with the value, control is passed to step 11211 and it is judged that a pattern agrees with a stored one. The subroutine is then

terminated.

If it is judged at step 11204 that the pattern agrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 11207. L is incremented by one. It is then checked at step 11208 whether data is found at the location (L, C) in the retrieval character memory 1001. It is judged at step 11209 whether data is found. If no data is found, control is passed to step 11211 and it is judged that the pattern agrees with the stored one. The subroutine is then terminated. If it is judged at step 11209 that data is found, control is passed to step 11210. Lc is incremented by one, and control is returned to step 11203. The subroutine is then repeated.

Interlock Division Retrieval mentioned in the flowchart of Fig. 14 is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 16. First, (1, 2) is specified for the retrieval start location (L, C) at step 11301. At step 11302, the value specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901 and 2 are specified for (Lc, Cc). At step 11303, data specified in the symbol area 0402 at the location (L, C) in the retrieval character memory 1001 is compared with data specified in the symbol area 0402 at the location (Lc, Cc) in the character memory 0801.

It is judged at step 11304 whether the data items agree with each other. If the data items disagree with each other,

Lc is compared with the value specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901 at step 11305. If Lc agrees with the value, it is judged at step 11306 that a pattern disagrees with a stored one. The subroutine is then terminated. If it is judged at step 11305 that Lc disagrees with the value, control is passed to step 11307, and it is judged that the pattern agrees with the stored one. The subroutine is then terminated.

If it is judged at step 11304 that the pattern agrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 11308. L is incremented by one. Thereafter, it is checked at step 11309 whether data is found at the location (L, C) in the retrieval character memory 1001. It is judged at step 11310 whether data is found. If no data is found, control is passed to step 11311. Cc is incremented by one. It is judged at step 11312 whether 8 is specified for Cc. If 8 is specified, control is passed to step 11307. It is judged that the pattern agrees with the stored one, and the subroutine is terminated. If it is judged at step 11312 that 8 is not specified, the value specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901 is specified for Lc at step 11314. Control is returned to step 11303, and the subroutine is repeated.

If it is judged at step 11310 that data is found, control is passed to step 11313. Lc is incremented by one.

Control is then returned to step 11303, and the subroutine is repeated.

Output Division Retrieval mentioned in the flowchart of Fig. 14 is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 17. First, (1, 8) is specified for the retrieval start location (L, C) at step 11401. At step 11402, the value specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901 and 8 are specified for (Lc, Cc). At step 11403, data specified in the symbol area 0402 at the location (L, C) in the retrieval character memory 1001 is compared with data specified in the symbol area 0402 at the location (Lc, Cc) in the character memory 0801.

It is judged at step 11404 whether the data items agree with each other. If the data items disagree with each other, Lc is compared with the value specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901 at step 11405. If the data items agree with each other, it is judged at step 11406 that a pattern disagrees with a stored one. The subroutine is then terminated. If it is judged at step 11405 that the data items disagree with each other, control is passed to step 11410. It is judged that the pattern agrees with the stored one, and the subroutine is terminated.

If it is judged at step 11404 that the pattern agrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 11407. L is incremented by one. It is then checked at step 11408

whether data is found at the location (L, C) in the retrieval character memory 1001. It is judged at step 11409 whether data is found. If no data is found, control is passed to step 11410. It is then judged that the pattern agrees with the stored one, and the subroutine is terminated.

If it is judged at step 11409 that data is found, control is passed to step 11411. Lc is incremented by one. Control is then returned to step 11403, and the subroutine is repeated.

Next Circuit Block Retrieval mentioned in the flowchart of Fig. 14 is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 18. First, it is judged at step 11500 whether 0 is specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904. If 0 is not specified, (0, 1) is specified for (L, C) at step 11502. It is then checked at step 11503 what data is specified at the location (value specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904 + L, C) in the character memory 0801. It is judged at step 11504 whether the bit indicating "downward" in the branch designation division 0404 of the symbol area 0402 is set to 1. If the bit is set to 1, control is passed to step 11505. L is incremented by one. Control is then returned to step 11503, and the subroutine is repeated.

If it is judged at step 11504 that the bit is not set

At step 11501, L+1 is added to the value specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904. It is checked at step 11511 what data is specified at the location (value specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904 + L, C) in the character memory 0801. It is judged at step 11512 whether data is found. If data is found, 1 is specified for C at step 11513. 0 is specified for L at step 11514. It is checked at step 11515 what data is specified at the location (value specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904 + L, C) in the character memory 0801.

If it is judged at step 11500 that 0 is specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904, 1 is specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0906 at step 11501. Control is then passed to step 11511. If it is judged at step 11512 that no data is found, it is judged at step 11518 that no data is found. The subroutine is then terminated.

If it is judged at step 11516 that the bit is not set to 1, C is incremented by one at step 11519. It is checked at step 11520 what data is specified at the location (value specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904 + L, C) in the character memory 0801. It is judged at step 11521 whether the bit indicating "downward" in the branch designation division 0404 of the symbol area 0402 is set to 1. If the bit is set to 1, control is passed to step 11517 and the subroutine is repeated. If the bit is not set to 1, it is judged at step 11522 whether 8 is specified for C. If 8 is specified for C, control is passed to step 11523. Data specified on L rows starting with the row whose number is specified in the row

When the foregoing steps have been completed, data specified on rows in the character memory 0801 and indicating circuit elements that agree with the stored ones has been copied into the retrieval character memory 1001. In the present example, data specified on the third and fourth rows in the character memory 0801 has been copied into the retrieval character memory 1001.

Consistent Pattern Processing invoked at step 11108 in the flowchart of Fig. 14 is carried out as described in the

flowchart of Fig. 19. First, data specified in the device number areas 1002 in the retrieval character memory 1001 is deleted at step 1206. Data stored in the retrieval character memory 1001 is displayed on the screen of the CRT 0102 at step 1207. It is inquired at step 1208 if the data is acceptable. The inquiry is made with the message 1301 displayed as shown in Fig. 20. Steps 1207 and 1208 constitute a display means for displaying a circuit pattern extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means on the input screen of the CRT 0102.

Thereafter, an operator makes an entry using, for example, the keyboard 0103. If it is judged at step 1209 that OK is not designated, the results of retrieval are discarded at step 1211. The subroutine is then terminated.

In contrast, if it is judged at step 1209 that OK is designated, control is passed to step 1210. Data stored in the retrieval character memory 1001 is placed on a row in the character memory 0801 indicated in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901. In other words, data stored in the retrieval character memory 1001 is copied into the character memory 0801. The step 1210 realizes a copying means for copying a circuit pattern extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means into the character memory 0801 serving as an available area.

When data stored in the retrieval character memory 1001

has been copied into the character memory 0801, a ladder diagram looks like the ladder diagram 1310 shown in Fig. 21. A character memory allocated to the ladder diagram looks like the character memory 1311 shown in Fig. 22. At this time, the ladder diagram looks like the ladder diagram 1310. Thus, patterns agreeing with the stored ones are automatically added to the ladder diagram. Thereafter, device numbers are input in order to complete the ladder diagram.

In the thus configured ladder circuit editing system, when an operator presses the function key 0110 in the course of storing data in the available area, a circuit pattern whose circuit element agrees with the one whose data is being stored is extracted from the unavailable area in which already input data is stored. The circuit pattern is then automatically displayed at a position on the screen at which an entry is made. An operator need not perform extra work, but an analogous ladder diagram can be retrieved automatically. An unnecessarily large area in a memory will not be occupied, but the efficiency in designing a ladder diagram can be improved.

An operator may not adopt the results of retrieval but may additionally record another circuit element in the character memory 0801 serving as an available area. In this case, if the operator presses the function key 0110, a

circuit pattern containing the circuit element is retrieved under a different condition (that is, the number of circuit elements contained in the circuit pattern has increased).

EXAMPLE 2

Fig. 23 shows another example of a ladder diagram. Referring to Fig. 23, reference numeral 1401 denotes a ladder diagram.

Fig. 24 shows the structure of a character memory in which the ladder diagram 1401 is stored. Referring to Fig. 24, reference numeral 1501 denotes a character memory.

Fig. 25 shows the ladder diagram 1401 shown in Fig. 23 to which another circuit elements are added. Referring to Fig. 25, reference numeral 1601 denotes a ladder diagram and 1602 denotes an additional circuit block.

Fig. 26 shows the structure of a memory defined in the memory 0109 in which the ladder diagram 1601 is stored, that is, a character memory. Referring to Fig. 26, reference numerals 1701 and 1702 denote character memories defined at predetermined locations in the memory 0109. The character memory 1701 serves as an unavailable area in which at least one circuit pattern that has been input is stored. In contract, the character memory 1702 is a character memory allocated to the additional circuit block 1602 and serving as an available area in which a new circuit pattern is

Fig. 27 and Fig. 28 show the structures of character memories in which a ladder diagram to be compared with a stored one is temporarily saved. Referring to Fig. 27 and Fig. 28, reference numerals 1703 and 1705 denote retrieval character memories. 1704 and 1706 denote device number areas in the retrieval character memories 1703 and 1705 respectively.

Assume that the ladder diagram 1401 shown in Fig. 23 has already been produced and the character memory 1501 allocated to the ladder diagram has already been defined as shown in Fig. 24. A discussion will be made on a case where a description of the additional circuit block 1602 is added to the program expressed in the form of the ladder diagram 1401 (Fig. 25). The addition of the additional part 1602 changes the character memory as shown in Fig. 26.

In this state, the keyboard 0103 is used to issue a Retrieve instruction. The Retrieve instruction is issued with a press of, for example, the function key 0110 on the keyboard 0103. With the press of the function key 0110, row

number 7 to be allocated to the additional circuit block 1602 is specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901. Thereafter, Retrieval is started. For retrieval, first, it is checked if a pattern specified in the activation condition division 0203 agrees with a stored one. Secondly, it is checked if a pattern specified in the interlock division 0204 agrees with a stored one. Finally, it is checked if a pattern specified in the output division 0205 agrees with a stored one. Retrieval is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 29.

The procedure of retrieval will be described in conjunction with the flowchart of Fig. 29. When Retrieval is started, first, 0 is specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904 at step 1800. Next Circuit Block Retrieval is executed at step 1801. Activation Condition Division Retrieval is executed at step 1802. It is judged at step 1803 whether a pattern agrees with a stored one. If the pattern agrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 1811. Consistent Pattern Processing is then executed.

If it is judged at step 1803 that the pattern disagrees with the stored one, Interlock Division Retrieval is executed at step 1804. If it is judged at step 1805 that a pattern specified in the interlock division agrees with a

stored one, control is passed to step 1811. Consistent Pattern Processing is then executed.

If it is judged at step 1805 that the pattern disagrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 1806. Output Division Retrieval is then executed. If it is judged at step 1807 that a pattern agrees with a stored one, control is passed to step 1811. Consistent Pattern Processing is then executed. If it is judged at step 1807 that the pattern disagrees with the stored one, Next Circuit Block Retrieval is executed at step 1808. It is judged at step 1810 whether another circuit block is specified. If another circuit block is not specified, Retrieval is terminated. If another circuit block is specified, control is returned to step 1802. The main routine is continued. It is judged at step 1812 whether Next is designated during Consistent Pattern Processing. If Next is designated, control is returned to step 1801. If it is judged at step 1812 that any instruction other than Next is designated, it is judged that retrieval is completed. The main routine is terminated.

Next Circuit Block Retrieval of step 1801, Activation Condition Division Retrieval of step 1802, Interlock Division Retrieval of step 1804, Output Division retrieval of step 1806, and Next Circuit Block Retrieval of step 1801 are the same subroutines as those invoked in Example 1.

When Consistent Pattern Processing is invoked at step

1811 described in the flowchart of Fig. 29, the subroutine is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 30. First, all data specified in the device number areas 1704 in the retrieval character memory 1703 is deleted at step 1900. Data stored in the retrieval character memory 1703 is displayed on the screen of the CRT 0102 at step 1901. The message 2001 shown in Fig. 31 is displayed at step 1902. It is then inquired whether a displayed circuit pattern is utilized. The step 1901 and step 1902 constitute a display means for displaying a circuit pattern extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means on the input screen of the CRT 0102.

Thereafter, an operator makes an entry using, for example, the keyboard 0103. If it is judged at step 1903 that OK is designated, control is passed to step 1904. Data stored in the retrieval character memory 1703 is specified on a row in the character memory indicated in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901. In other words, data stored in the retrieval character memory 1703 is copied into the character memory. The step 1904 realizes a copying means for copying a circuit pattern extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means into the character memory 0801 serving as an available area.

If it is judged at step 1903 that Next is designated, nothing is performed and Consistent Pattern Processing is

If it is judged at step 1903 that Next is designated, Next Circuit Block Retrieval is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 29. If Next is designated in relation to the ladder diagram shown in Fig. 25, the retrieval character memory 1704 is defined. The subroutine described in the flowchart of Fig. 29 is then carried out.

EXAMPLE 3

Fig. 33 shows a circuit pattern storage area.

Referring to Fig. 33, reference numeral 2107 denotes a circuit pattern storage area.

Fig. 34 shows a circuit pattern location table.

Reference numeral 2201 denotes a circuit pattern location table, 2202 denotes a column number area, and 2203 denotes a row number area.

Fig. 35 shows a circuit pattern location character memory table. Reference numeral 2204 denotes a circuit pattern location character memory table. 2205 denotes a device number area, and 2206 denotes a symbol area.

Fig. 36, Fig. 37, and Fig. 38 are flowcharts describing the processing performed by the processing unit 0105. Assume that the ladder diagram 0501 shown in Fig. 7 has already been produced and the character memory 0601 allocated to the ladder diagram has been defined in the memory 0109 as shown in Fig. 8.

A description of the command 0702 is added to the program expressed in the form of the ladder diagram (Fig. 9). The addition of the command 0702 changes the character memory 0601 as shown in Fig. 10.

In this state, the keyboard 0103 is used to issue a Retrieve instruction. The Retrieve instruction is issued with a press of, for example, the function key 0110 on the keyboard 0103. With the press of the function key 0110, row number 5 in the character memory 0802 allocated to the

additional circuit block is specified in the row number area 0903 in the compared location table 0901. Thereafter, Retrieval is started. For retrieval, first, it is checked if a pattern specified in the activation condition division 0203 agrees with a stored one. Secondly, it is checked if a pattern specified in the interlock division 0204 agrees with a stored one. Finally, it is checked if a pattern specified in the output division 0205 agrees with a stored one. Retrieval is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 36.

The procedure of retrieval will be described in conjunction with the flowchart of Fig. 36. When Retrieval is started, first, 1 is specified for M at step 2301. At step 2302, data specified on the leading row number in the circuit pattern storage area 2107 indicated as the M-th pattern storage address 2104 in the circuit pattern storage destination list 2101 is copied into the retrieval character memory 1001. Moreover, the leading row number in the circuit pattern storage area 2107 is specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904.

At step 2303, Activation Condition Division Retrieval is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 15. It is judged at step 2304 whether a pattern agrees with a stored one. If the pattern agrees with the stored one, Interlock Division Retrieval is carried out at step 2305 as

described in the flowchart of Fig. 16. It is then judged at step 2306 whether a pattern agrees with a stored one. If the pattern agrees with the stored one, Output Division Retrieval is carried out at step 2305 as described in the flowchart of Fig. 17. It is then judged at step 2308 whether a pattern agrees with a stored one. If the pattern agrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 2309. The leading row number in the circuit pattern storage area 2107 indicated with the M-th pattern storage address 2104 in the circuit pattern storage destination list 2101 is specified in the row number area 2203 in the circuit pattern location table 2201. At step 2310, Consistent Pattern Processing is executed. The main routine is then terminated.

If it is judged at step 2304 that the pattern disagrees with the stored one, Interlock Division Retrieval is executed at step 2311. If it is judged at step 2312 that a pattern agrees with a stored one, control is passed to step 2309 and step 2310. Consistent Pattern Processing is then executed, and the main routine is terminated. If it is judged at step 2312 that the pattern disagrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 2313. Output Division Retrieval is then executed. If it is judged at step 2314 that a pattern agrees with a stored one, control is passed to step 2309 and step 2310. Consistent Pattern Processing is then executed, and the main routine is terminated.

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If it is judged at step 2314 that the pattern disagrees with the stored one, M is incremented by one at step 2315. It is then checked at step 2316 whether data is specified as the M-th pattern storage address in the circuit pattern storage destination list. If it is judged at step 2317 that data is specified, control is returned to step 2302.

If it is judged at step 2317 that no data is specified, control is passed to step 2318. New Circuit Pattern Retrieval is then executed. It is judged at step 2319 whether any new data agrees with stored one. If it is judged that new data agrees with the stored one, control is passed to step 2320. The row number specified in the row number area 0906 in the retrieved location table 0904 is specified in the row number area 2203 in the circuit pattern location table 2201. Consistent Pattern Processing is then executed at step 2310. The main routine is then terminated. If it is judged at step 2319 that no new data agrees with stored one, the main routine is terminated.

Consistent Pattern Processing of step 2310 is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 37. First, 0 is specified for N at step 2401. It is checked at step 2402 whether data indicating a downward branch is specified in any symbol area on a row in the character memory 0801 indicated with the sum of the value specified in the row number area 2203 in the circuit pattern location table 2201

and N. If it is judged at step 2403 that a downward branch grows, control is passed to step 2404. N is incremented by one at step 2404. If it is judged at step 2403 that no downward branch grows, control is passed to step 2405.

Circuit Pattern Replacement of step 2405 is carried out as described in the flowchart of Fig. 38. First, the listing order M 2106 is compared with the tail 2105 of the circuit pattern storage destination list 2101 at step 2501. If it is judged at step 2502 that the listing order M 2106 is larger, control is passed to step 2506. Data specified on N rows starting with a row indicated in the row number area 2203 in the circuit pattern location table 2201 is stored in the circuit pattern storage area 2107. An address in the circuit pattern storage area 2107 is specified as the tail 2105 of the circuit pattern storage destination list 2101. Circuit Replacement is terminated at step 2506, and control is returned to step 2406.

In contrast, if it is judged at step 2502 that the listing order M is not larger, control is passed to step 2503. The M-th pattern storage address 2104 of a circuit pattern judged to agree with a stored one at step 2503 is deleted from the circuit pattern storage destination list 2101. At step 2504, the pattern storage addresses in the circuit pattern storage destination list 2101 starting with the first pattern storage address 2102 and ending with the

M-1-th pattern storage address 2103 are shifted downwards by one row. Data specified on N rows starting with a row indicated in the row number area 2203 in the circuit pattern location table 2201 is stored in the circuit pattern storage area 2107 at step 2505. The leading address in the circuit pattern storage area 2107 is specified as the first pattern storage address 2102 in the circuit pattern storage destination list 2101. Namely, the address of a selected circuit pattern is specified at the head of the circuit pattern storage destination list 2101. Circuit Pattern Replacement therefore realizes a replacing means for placing the address of a selected circuit pattern at the head of the circuit pattern storage destination list 2101. Circuit Pattern Replacement is terminated at step 2505, and control is returned to step 2406.

Data specified on N rows starting with a row indicated in the row number area 2203 in the circuit pattern location table 2201 is stored in the retrieval character memory 1001 at step 2406. All data specified in the device number areas 1002 in the retrieval character memory 1001 is deleted at step 2407. The data stored in the character memory 1001 is displayed on the screen at step 2408. It is inquired at step 2409 whether the data is OK. If it is judged at step 2410 that OK is designated, control is passed to step 2411. After step 2411 is completed, Consistent Pattern Processing

is terminated and Retrieval is terminated. If it is not judged at step 2410 that OK is not designated, control is passed to step 2412. The results of retrieval are discarded at step 2412. After step 2412 is completed, Consistent Pattern Processing is terminated and Retrieval is terminated.

The thus configured ladder circuit editing system provides the same advantages as Examples 1 and 2. In addition, a previously selected circuit pattern is automatically retrieved as a top priority, and the retrieved circuit pattern can be readily designated and utilized. Consequently, the efficiency in designing a ladder diagram can be further improved.

Industrial Applicability

According to the present invention, a ladder circuit editing system inputs and edits a sequence program for a program controller in the form of a ladder diagram. At least one circuit pattern that has been input is stored in an unavailable area, and a new circuit pattern is stored in an available area. Circuit patterns are input successively from the unavailable area. The ladder circuit editing system comprises a circuit pattern extracting means, a display means, and a copying means. The circuit pattern extracting means compares a circuit element contained in a circuit pattern being stored in the available area with a

Moreover, the display means successively displays a plurality of circuit patterns extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means. The copying means copies any circuit pattern, which is selected based on an operator's entry from among a plurality of successively displayed

circuit patterns, into the available area. Consequently, a plurality of analogous ladder diagrams is automatically retrieved. An operator selects any circuit pattern from among the circuit patterns constituting the ladder diagrams. The efficiency in designing a ladder diagram can be further improved.

Moreover, the display means displays a previously selected circuit pattern as a top priority. This contributes to further improvement of efficiency in designing a ladder diagram.

Also included are a selected circuit pattern address storage area in which the address of the previously selected circuit pattern is stored and a replacing means for placing the address of a selected circuit pattern at the head of the selected circuit pattern address storage area. The display means displays as a top priority the previously selected circuit pattern according to the order of addresses specified in the selected circuit pattern address storage area. The storage capacity of an auxiliary storage device will not be wasted but the efficiency in designing a ladder diagram can be improved.

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CLAIMS

1. A ladder circuit editing system for inputting and editing a sequence program for a program controller in the form of a ladder diagram, said ladder circuit editing system having an unavailable area in which at least one circuit pattern that has been input is stored and an available area in which a new circuit pattern is stored, and successively inputting circuit patterns from said available area, said ladder circuit editing system comprising:

a circuit pattern extracting means for comparing a circuit element contained in a circuit pattern being stored in said available area with a circuit element contained in a circuit pattern stored in said unavailable area, and extracting a circuit pattern that contains a circuit element agreeing with a stored one;

a display means for displaying the circuit pattern extracted by said circuit pattern extracting means on an input screen; and

a copying means for copying the circuit pattern extracted by said circuit pattern extracting means into said available area according to an operator's entry.

2. A ladder circuit editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said display means successively displays a plurality of circuit patterns extracted by said circuit pattern

extracting means, and said copying means copies any circuit pattern, which is selected based on the operator's entry from among the plurality of successively displayed circuit patterns, into said available area.

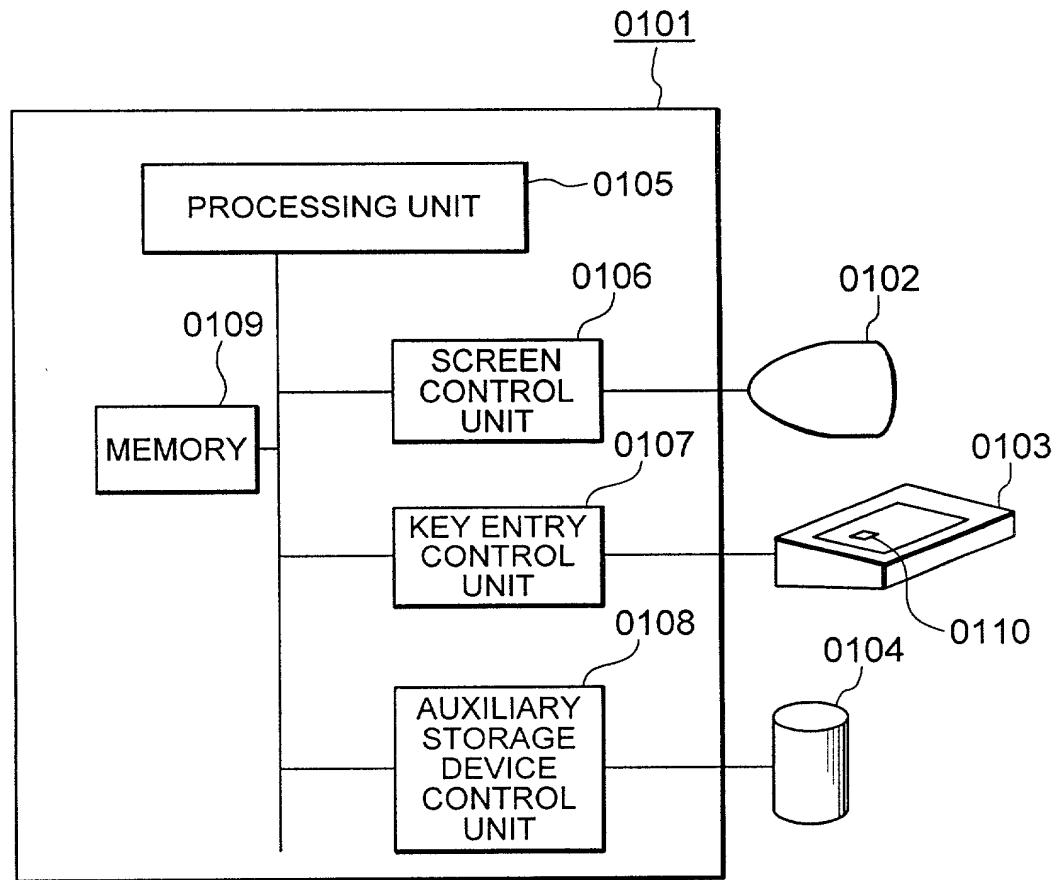
3. A ladder circuit editing system according to claim 2, wherein said display means displays a previously selected circuit pattern as a top priority.

4. A ladder circuit editing system according to claim 3, further comprising a selected circuit pattern address storage area in which the address of a previously selected circuit pattern is stored, and a replacing means for placing the address of a selected circuit pattern at the head of said selected circuit pattern address storage area, wherein said display means displays as a top priority the previously selected circuit pattern according to the order of addresses stored in said selected circuit pattern address storage area.

ABSTRACT

A ladder circuit editing system in accordance with the present invention inputs and edits a sequence program for a program controller in the form of a ladder diagram. The ladder circuit editing system has an unavailable area in which at least one circuit pattern that has been input is stored, and an available area in which a new circuit pattern is stored, and successively inputs circuit patterns from the available area. The ladder circuit editing system includes a circuit pattern extracting means, a display means, and a copying means. The circuit pattern extracting means compares a circuit element contained in a circuit pattern being stored in the available area with a circuit element contained in a circuit pattern already stored in the unavailable area, and extracts a circuit pattern containing a circuit element that agrees with a stored one. The display means displays the circuit pattern extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means on an input screen. The copying means copies the circuit pattern extracted by the circuit pattern extracting means into the available area according to an operator's entry.

FIG. 1



[illegible]

LADDER DIAGRAM 0201

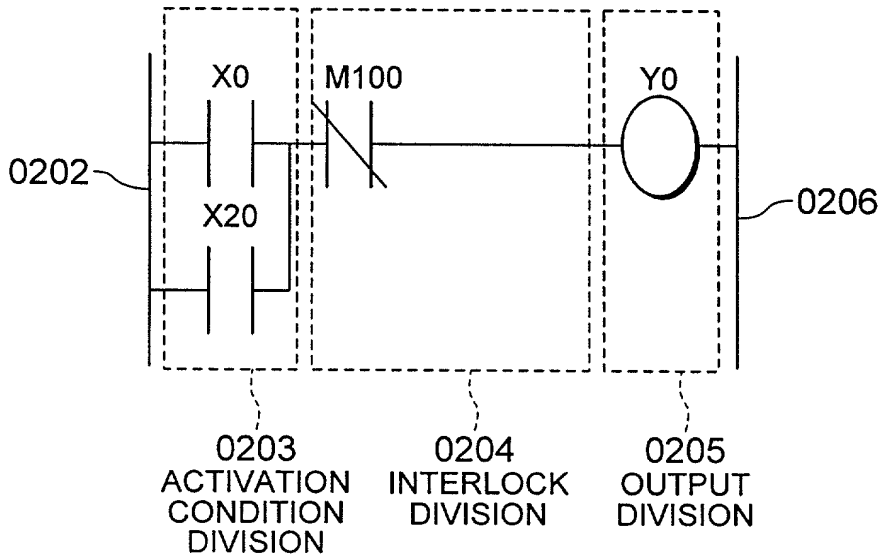


FIG. 3

CHARACTER MEMORY 0301










		COLUMN							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ROW		X0	M100						Y0
	1								
	2	X20							
									

FIG. 4

STRUCTURE OF EACH LOCATION IN CHARACTER MEMORY

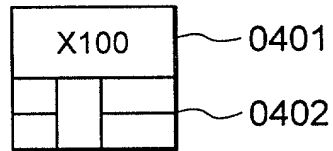


FIG. 5

STRUCTURE OF SYMBOL AREA 402

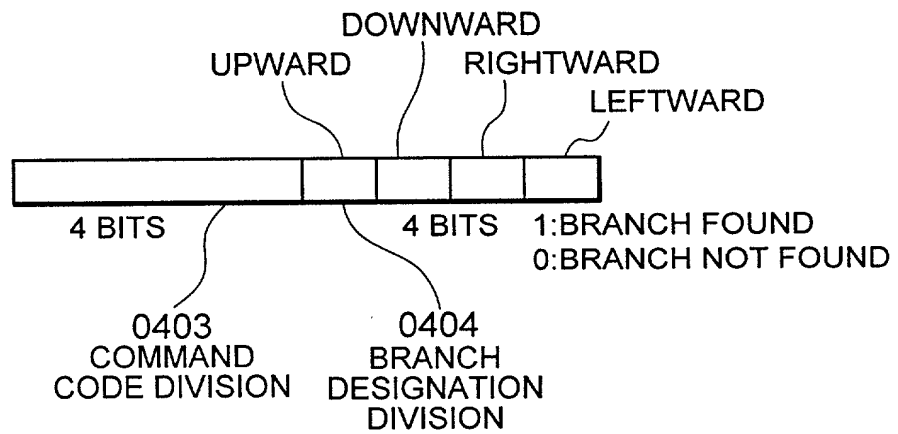


FIG. 6

CODE TABLE 0405 RELEVANT TO COMMAND CODE DIVISION

COMMAND	COMMAND CODE
	0
	1
	2
CONNECTION	3

00021" 5022250

FIG. 7

LADDER DIAGRAM 0501

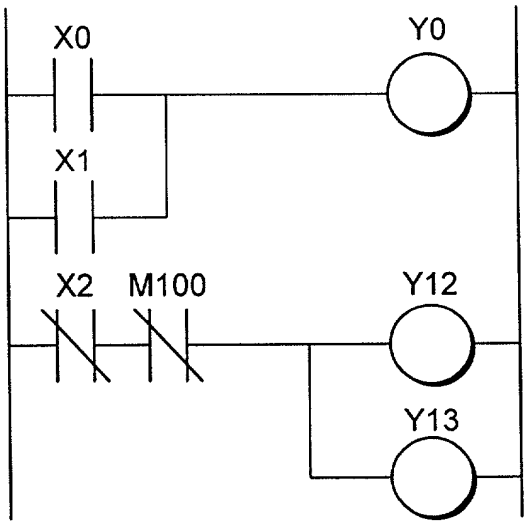


FIG. 8

CHARACTER MEMORY 0601

COLUMN		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ROW		X0							Y0
1									
2		X1							
3		X1	M100						Y12
4									Y13

FIG. 9

LADDER DIAGRAM 0701

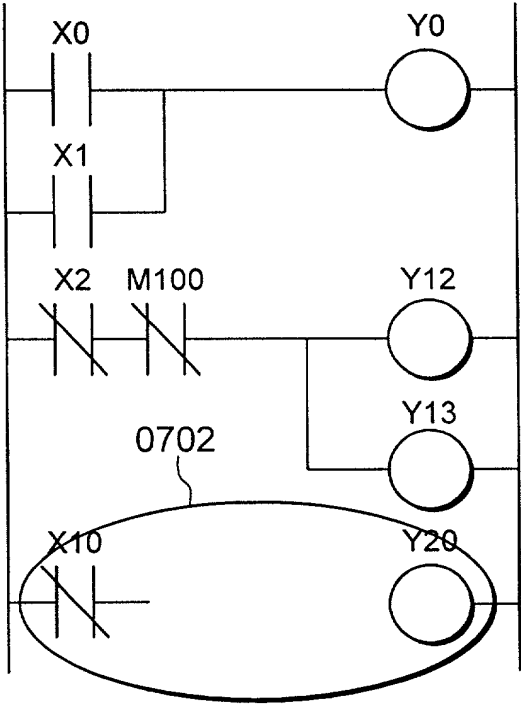


FIG. 10

CHARACTER MEMORY

		COLUMN							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0801	ROW	X0							Y0
	1		—	—	—	—	—	—	
	2	X1							
	3	X2	M100						Y12
	4								Y13
	5	X10							Y20
0802	6								

FIG. 11

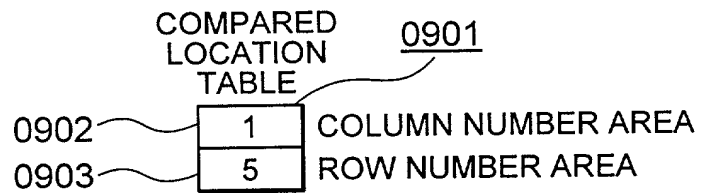


FIG. 12

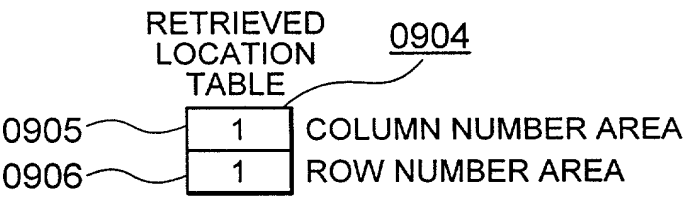


FIG. 13

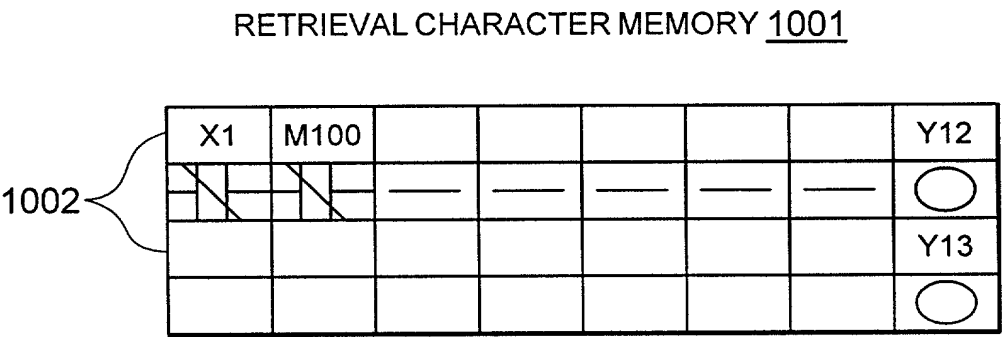


FIG. 14

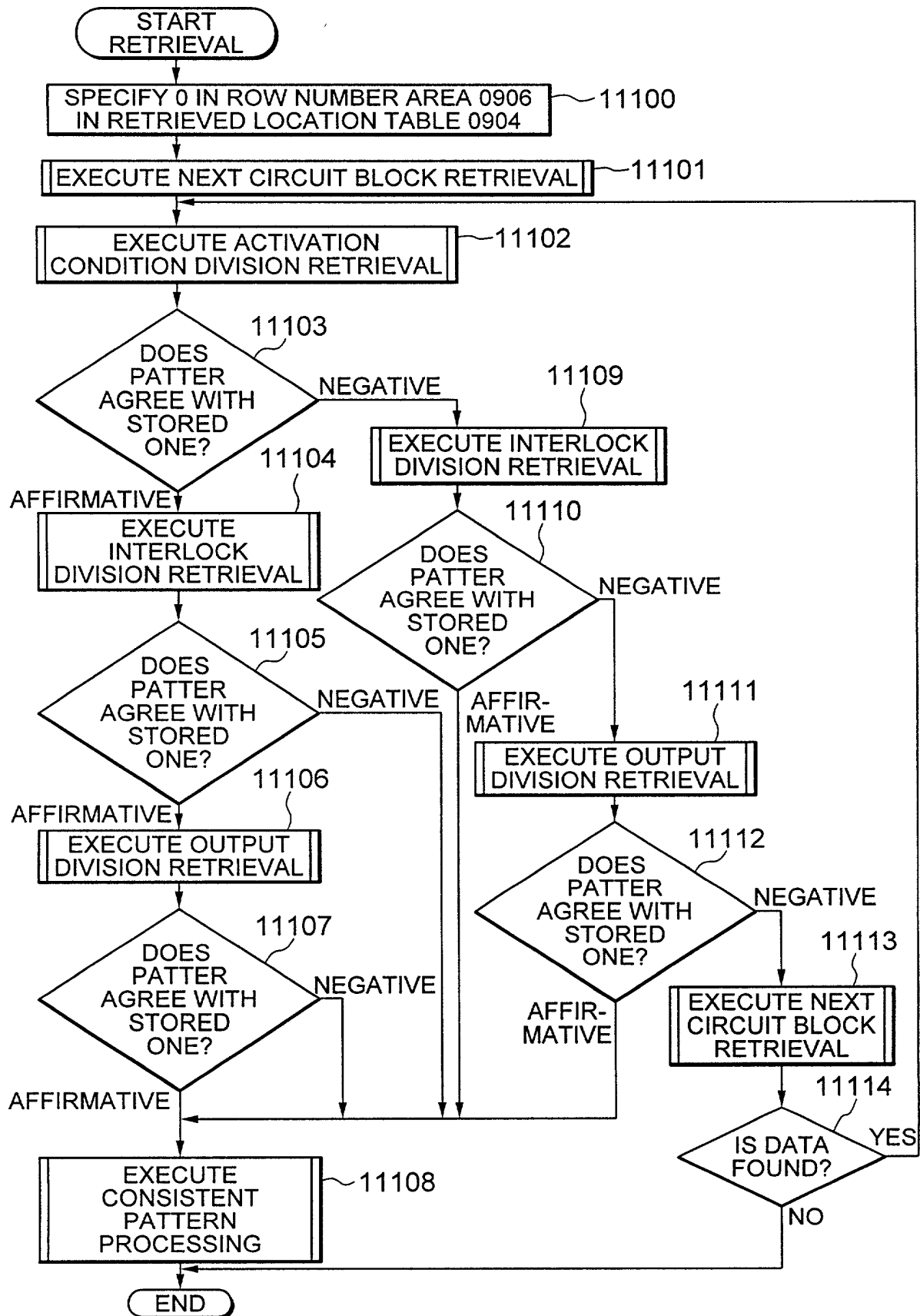
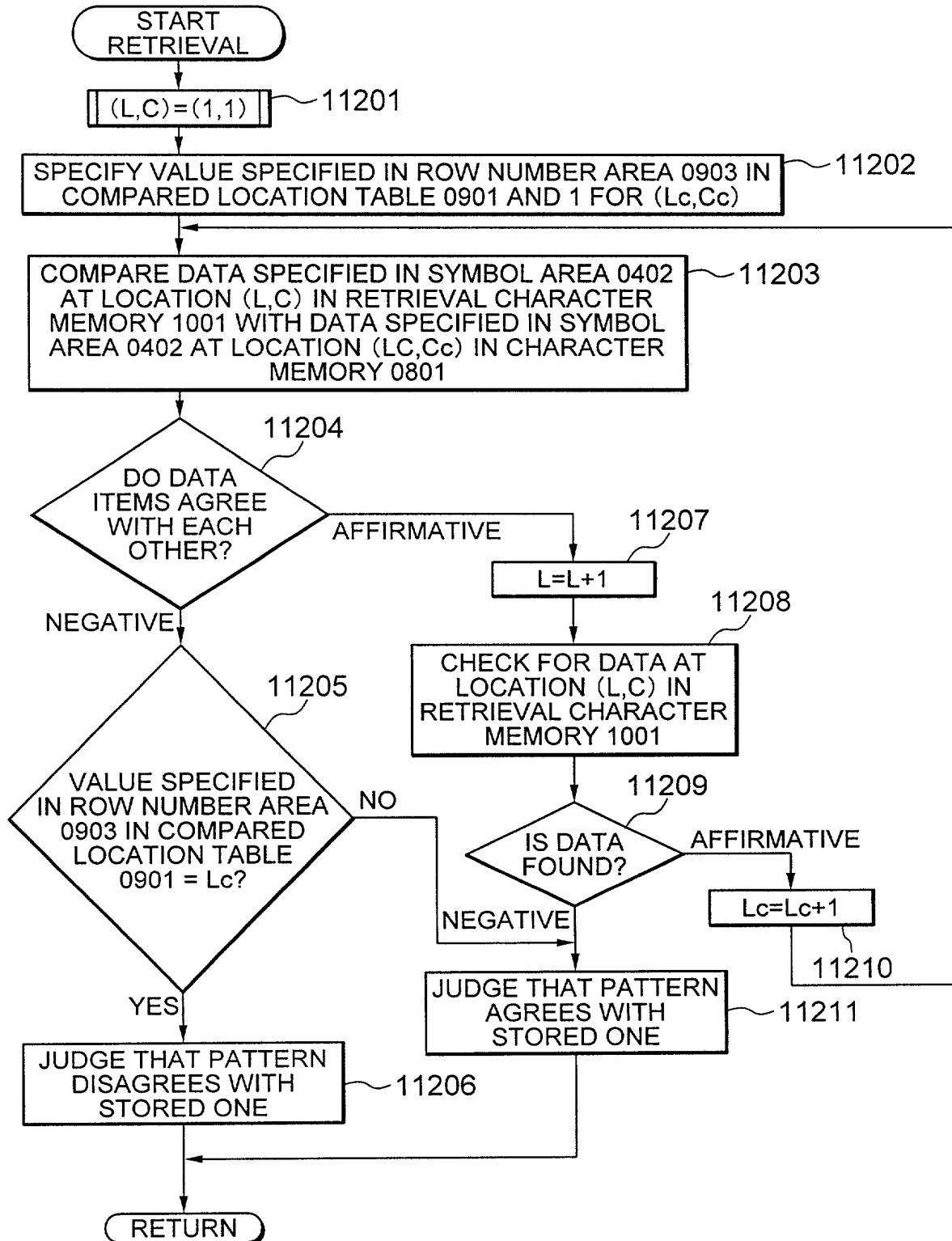


FIG. 15



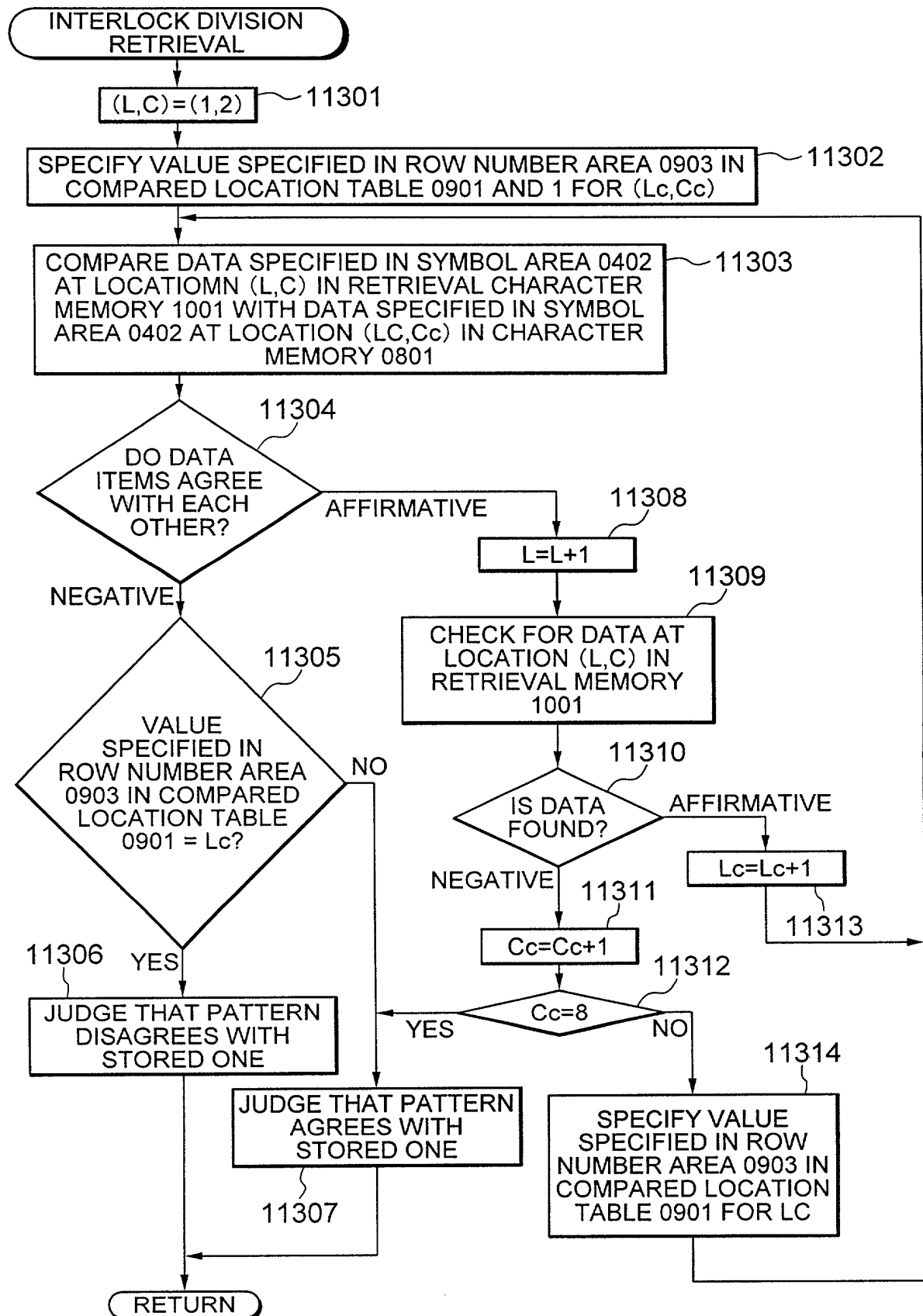
[illegible]

FIG. 17

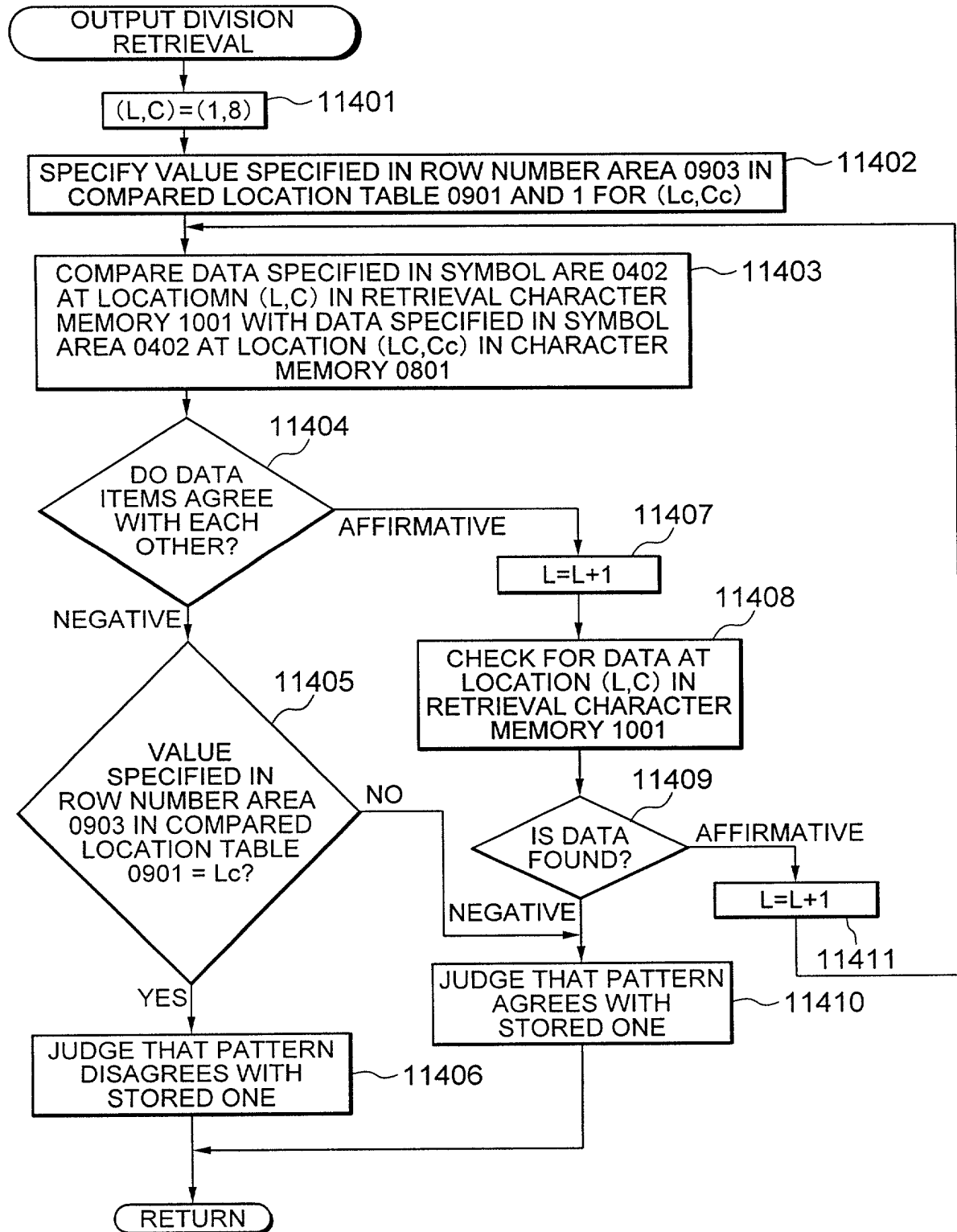


FIG. 18A

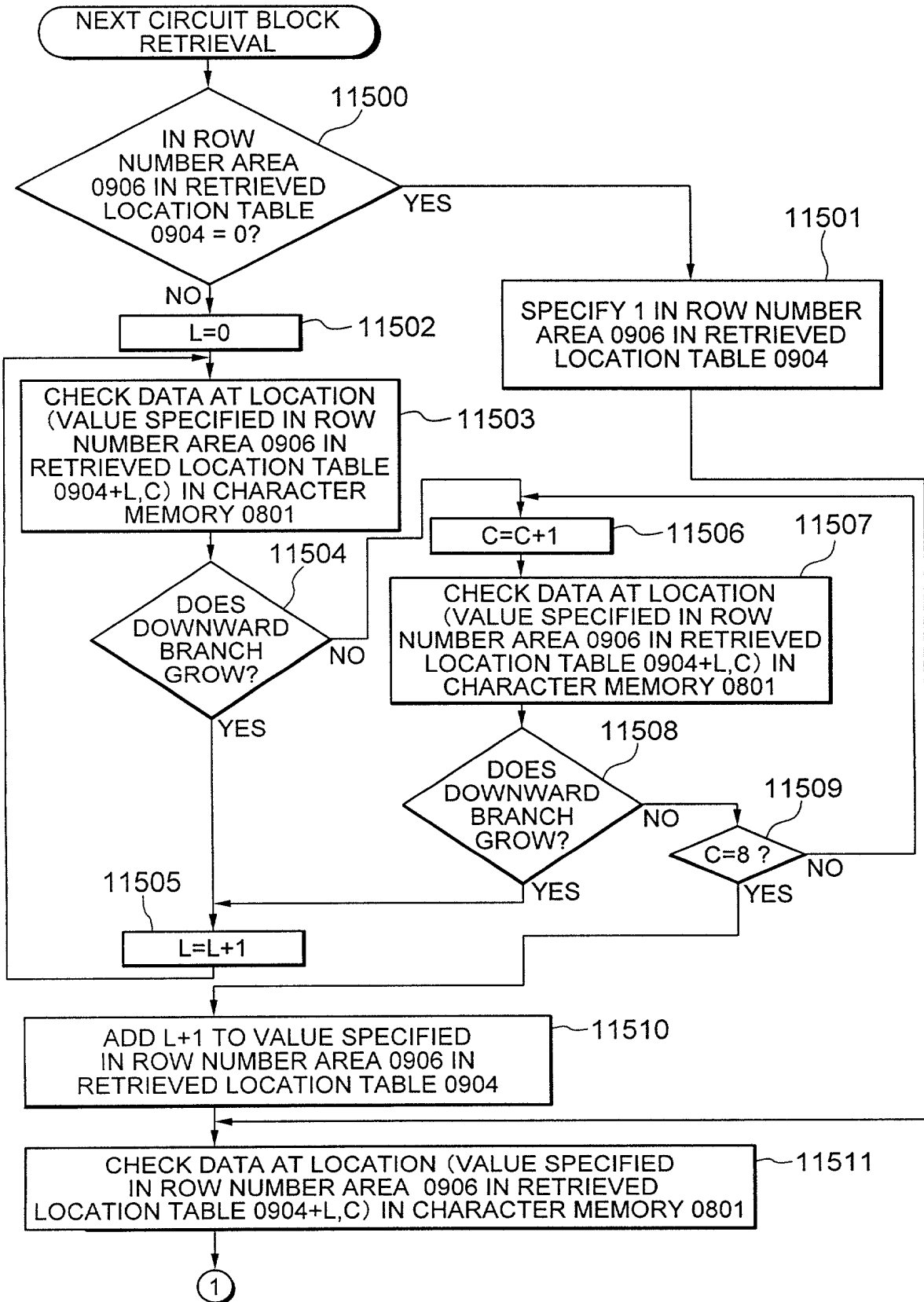
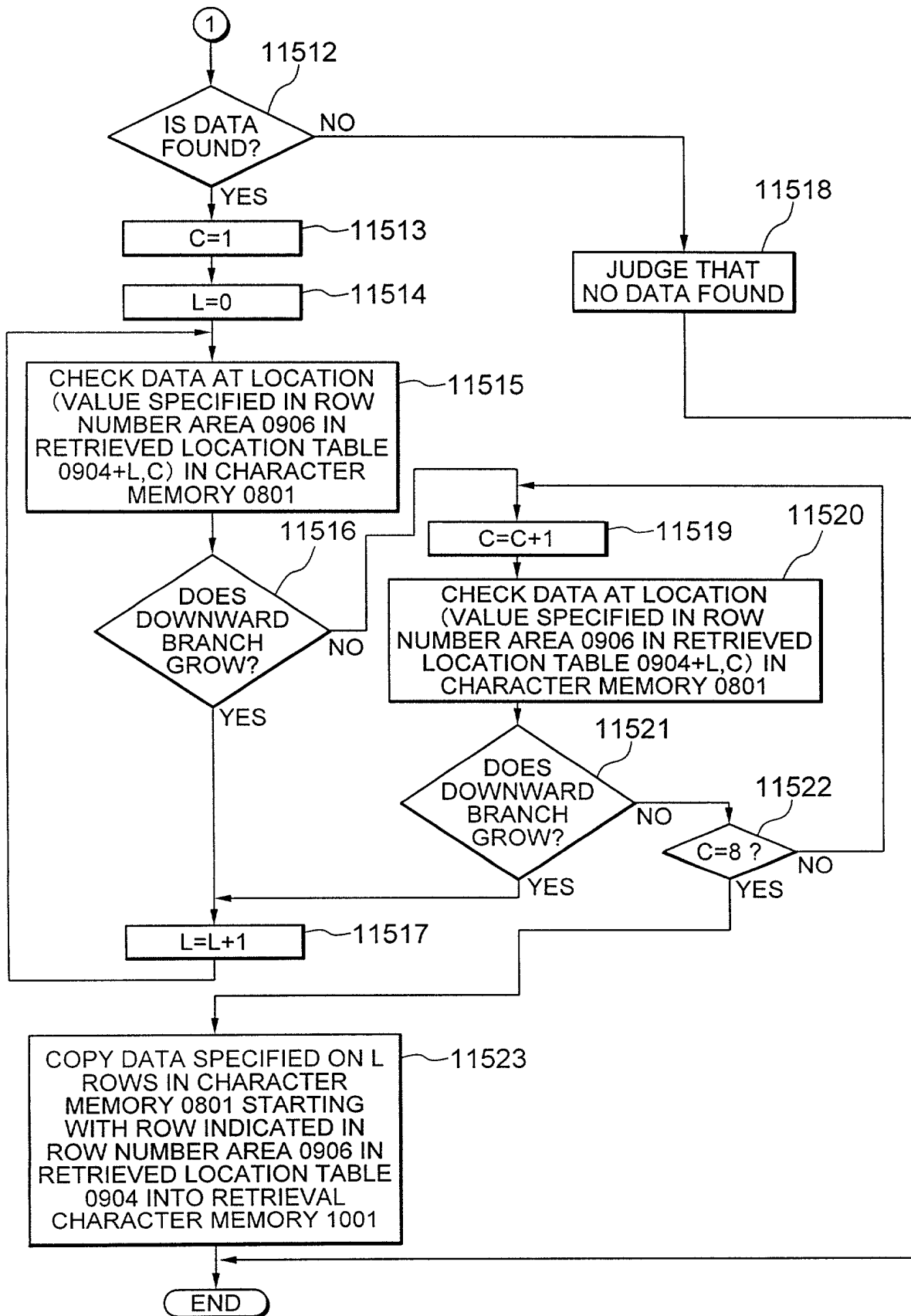
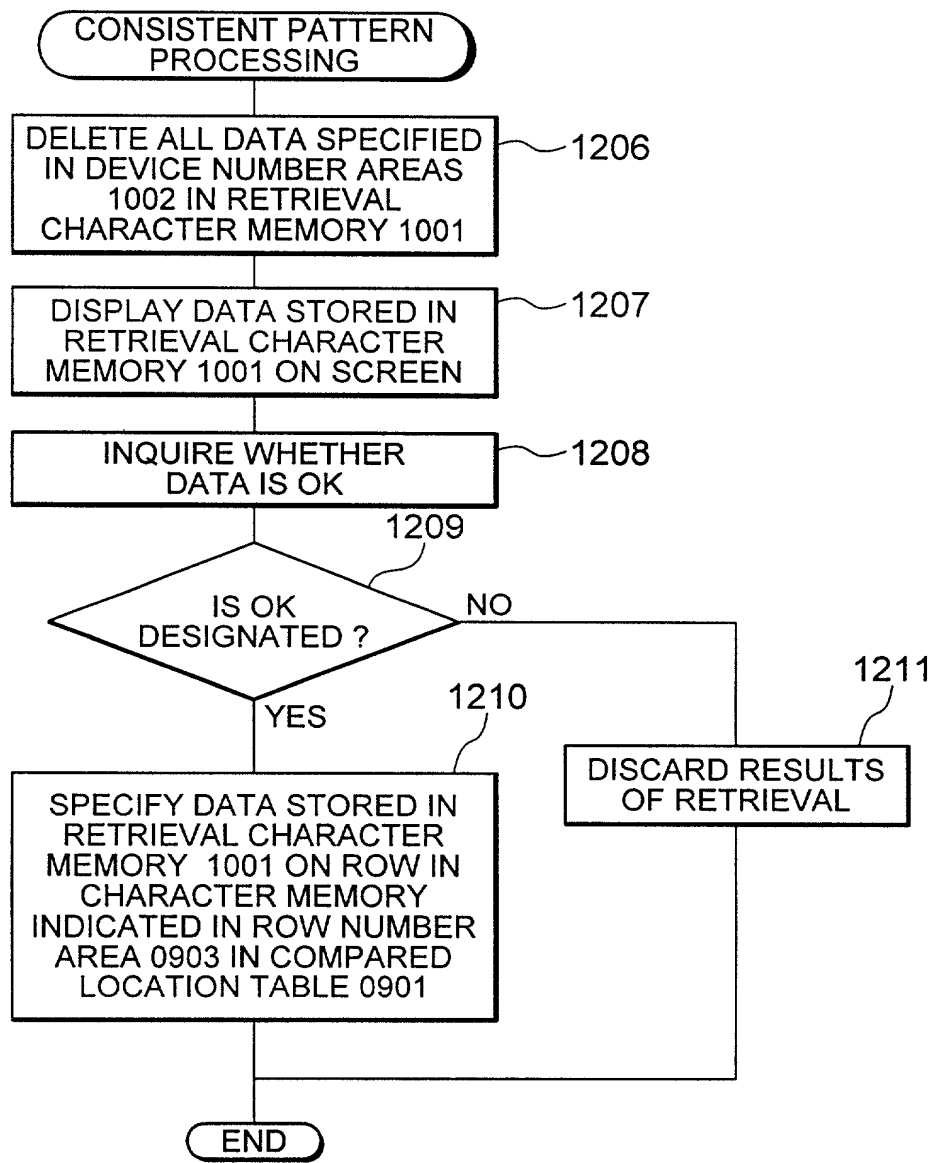


FIG. 18B



00027 5022250

FIG. 19



00221 9022250

FIG. 20

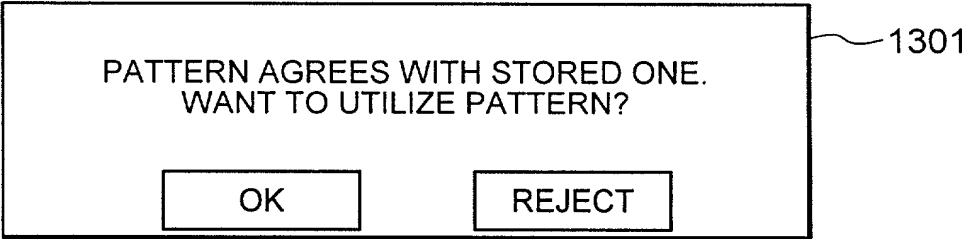
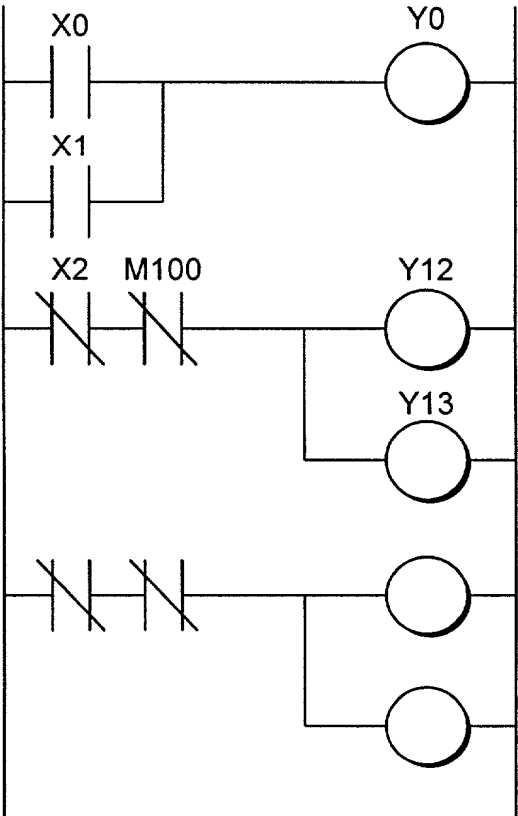





























FIG. 21

LADDER DIAGRAM 1310



[illegible]

CHARACTER MEMORY 1311

		COLUMN							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ROW		X0							Y0
	1								
		X1							
	2								
	3	X2	M100						Y12
									
	4								Y13
									
	5								
	6								
									

1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399</
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LADDER DIAGRAM 1401

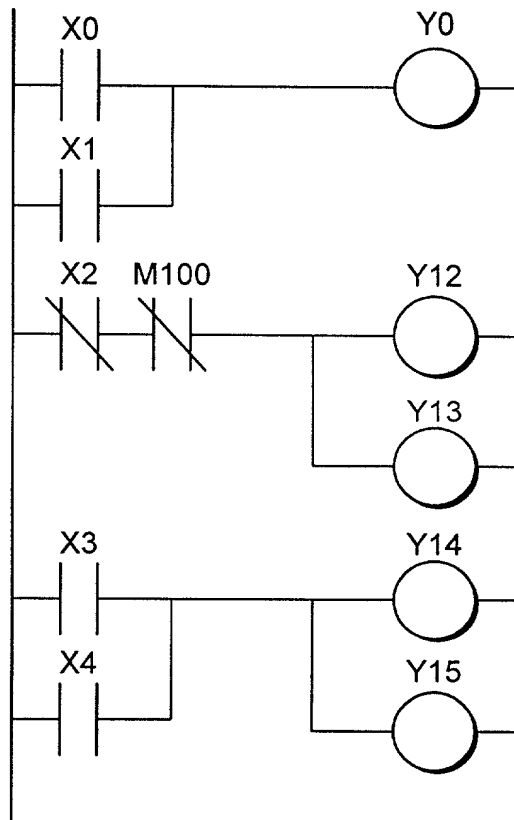


FIG. 24

CHARACTER MEMORY 1501

		COLUMN							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ROW		X0							Y0
1									
2		X1							
3		X2	M100						Y12
4									
5		X3							Y14
6		X4							Y15

FIG. 25

LADDER DIAGRAM 1401

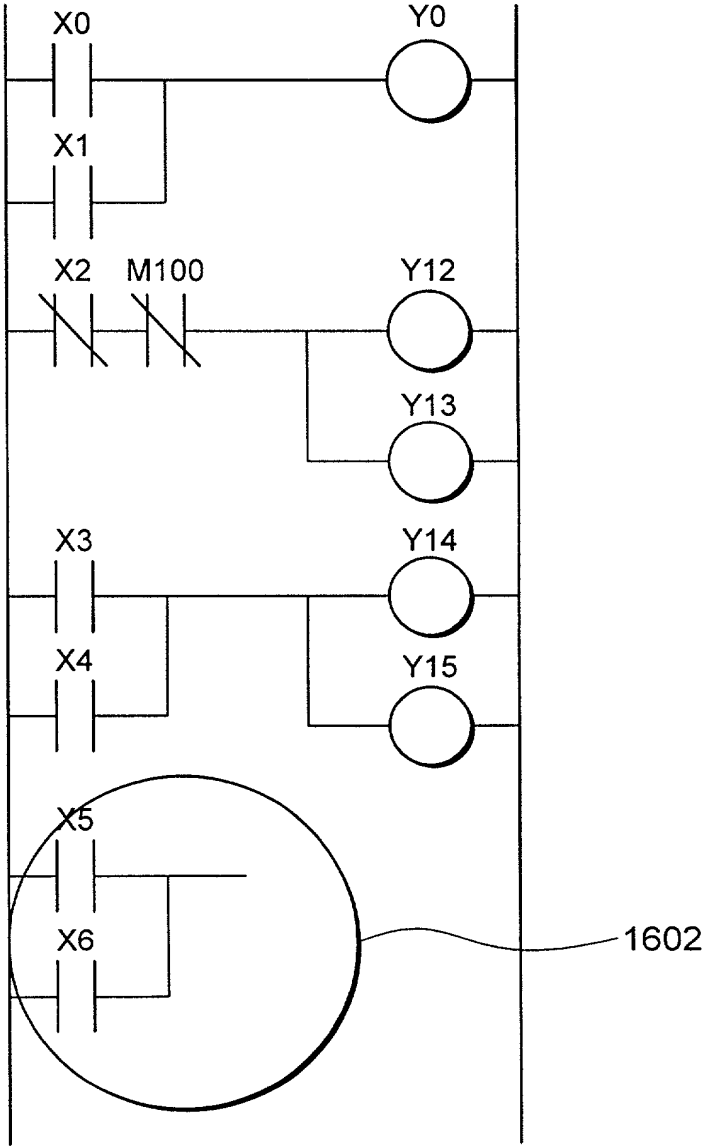


FIG. 26

CHARACTER MEMORY

		COLUMN							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1701	ROW	X0							Y0
	1								
	2								
	3		M100						Y12
	4								
	5								Y13
	6								
	7								Y14
1702	8								
									Y15
		X4							

FIG. 27

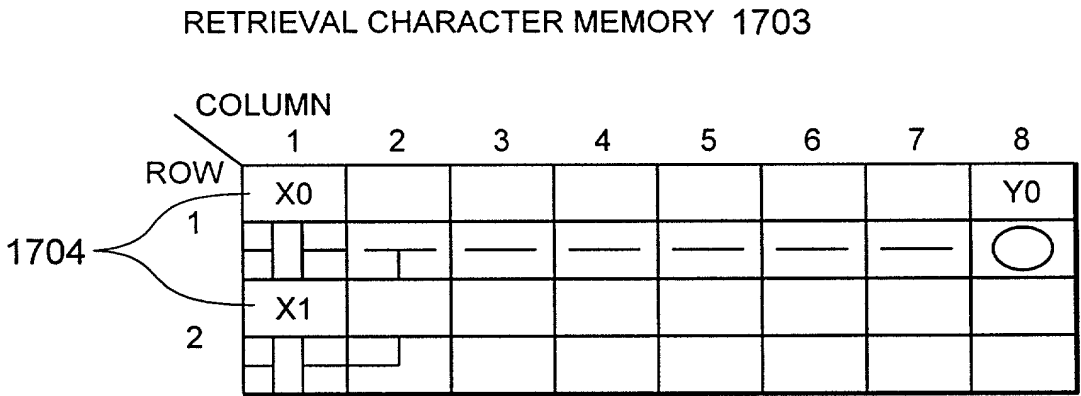


FIG. 28

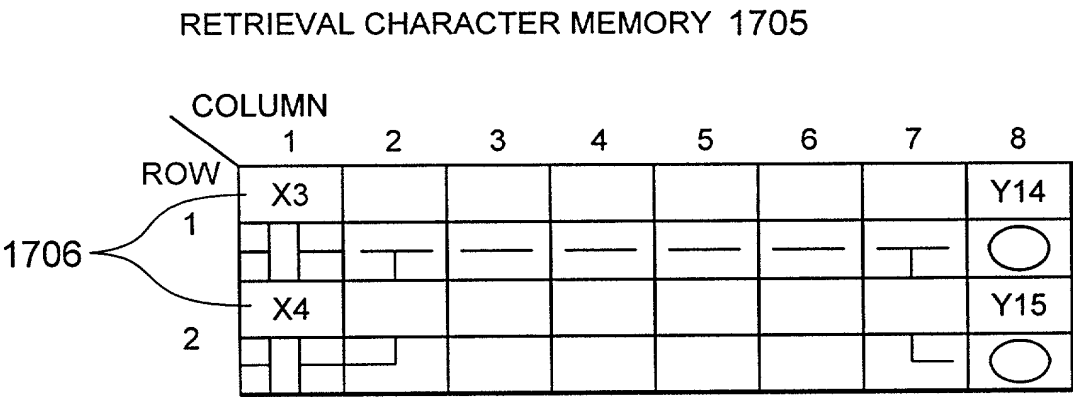


FIG. 29

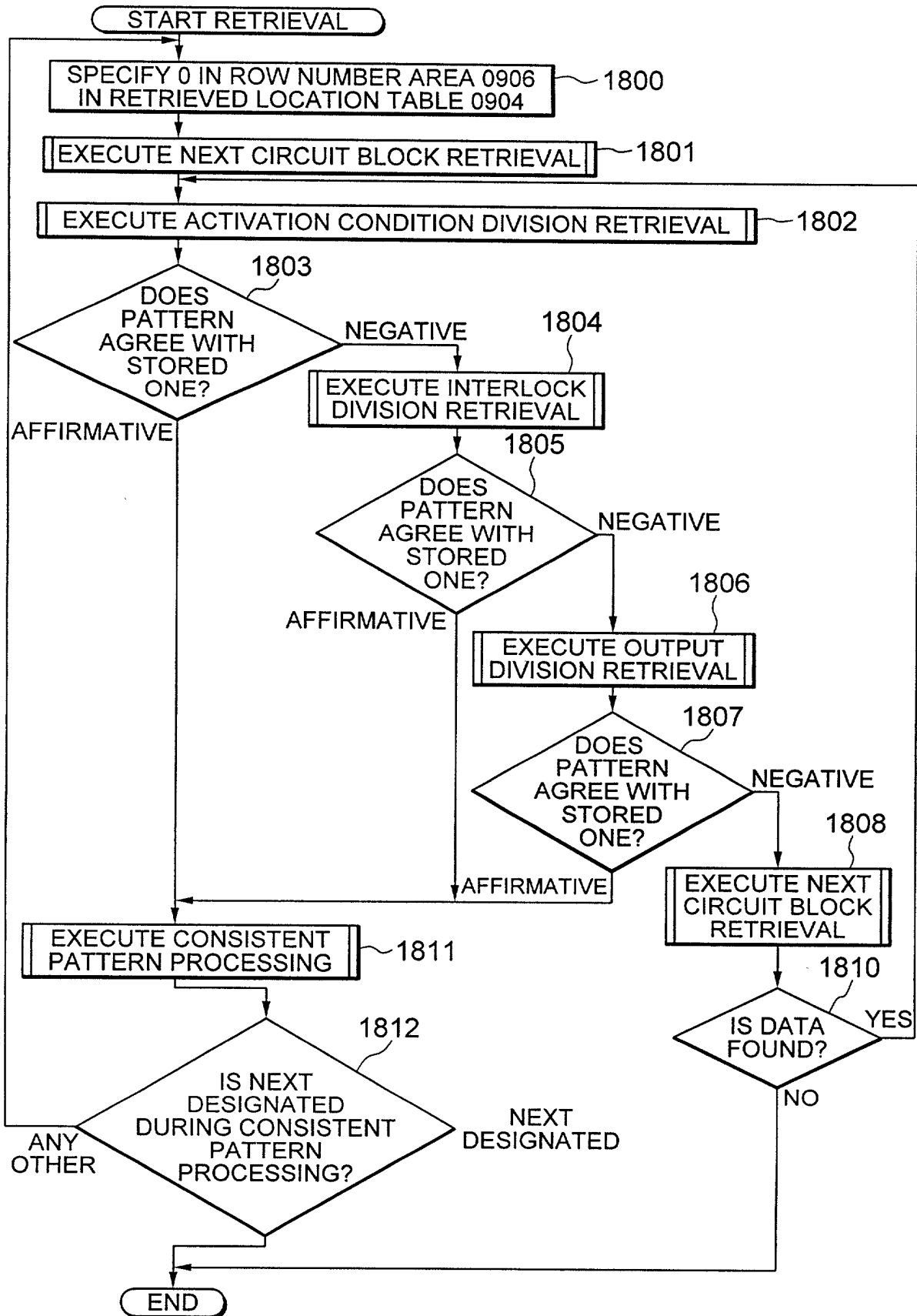


FIG. 30

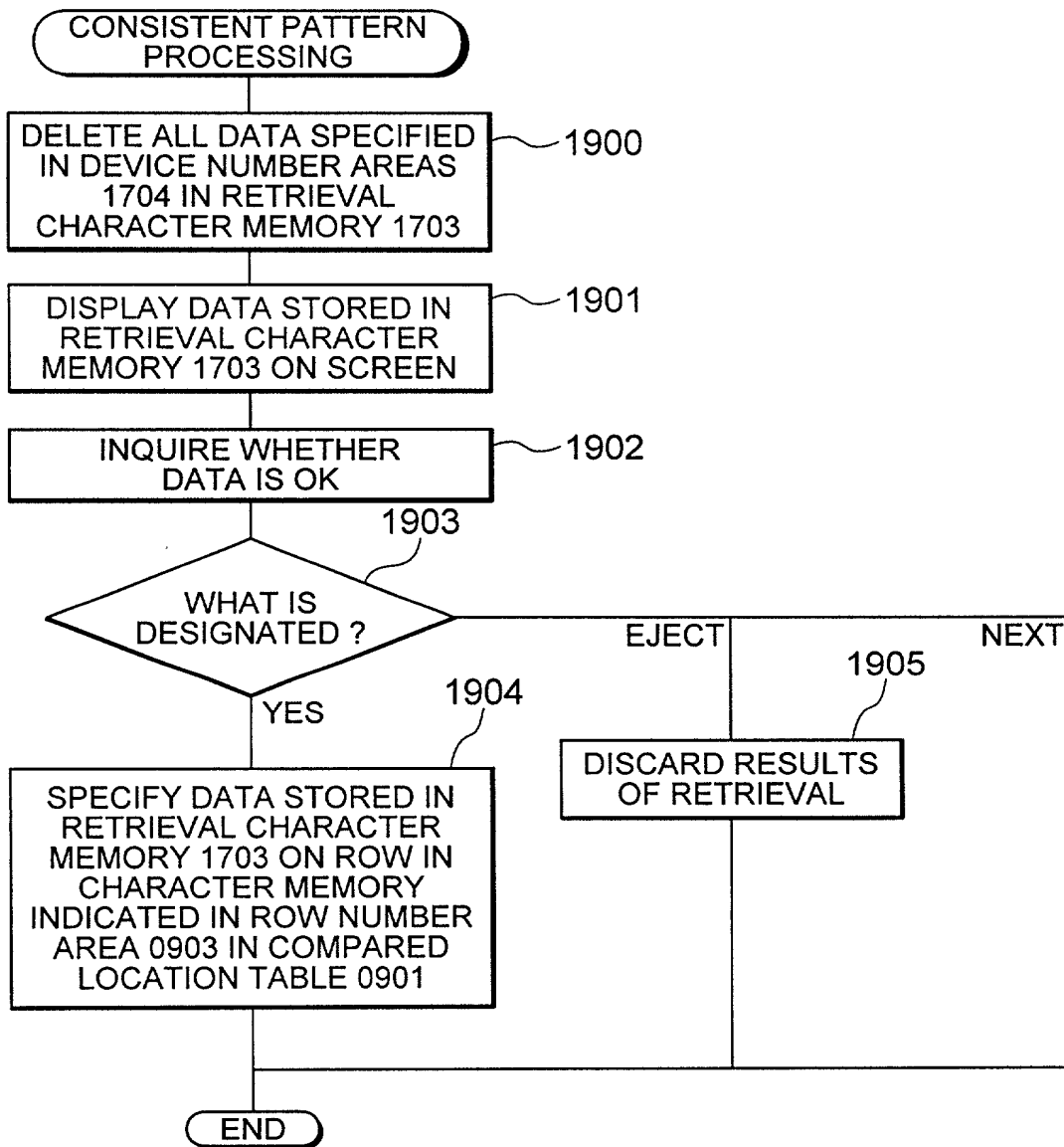


FIG. 31

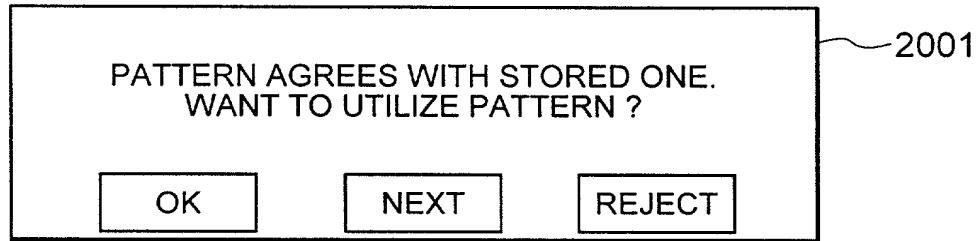


FIG. 32

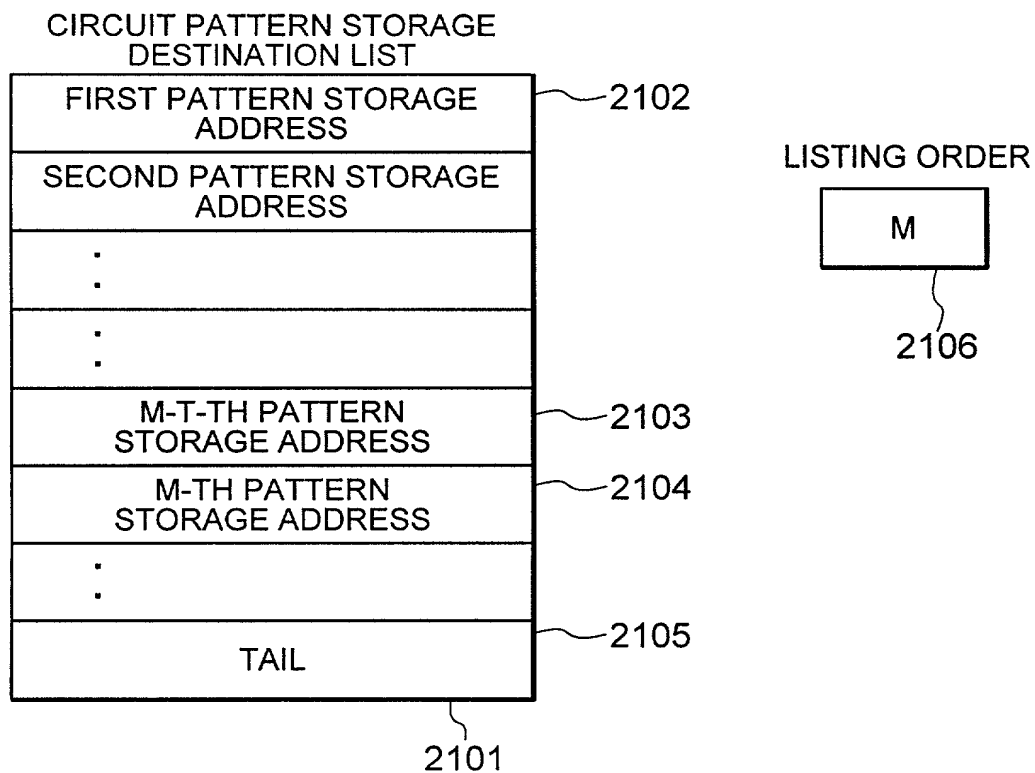


FIG. 33











ROW	COLUMN							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	X1	X2						Y2
								
								Y12
2107								

FIG. 34

CIRCUIT PATTERN LOCATION TABLE		2201
2202	1	COLUMN NUMBER AREA
2203	1	ROW NUMBER AREA

FIG. 35

CIRCUIT PATTERN LOCATION CHARACTER MEMORY TABLE			2204
X0			2205
			2206

FIG. 36

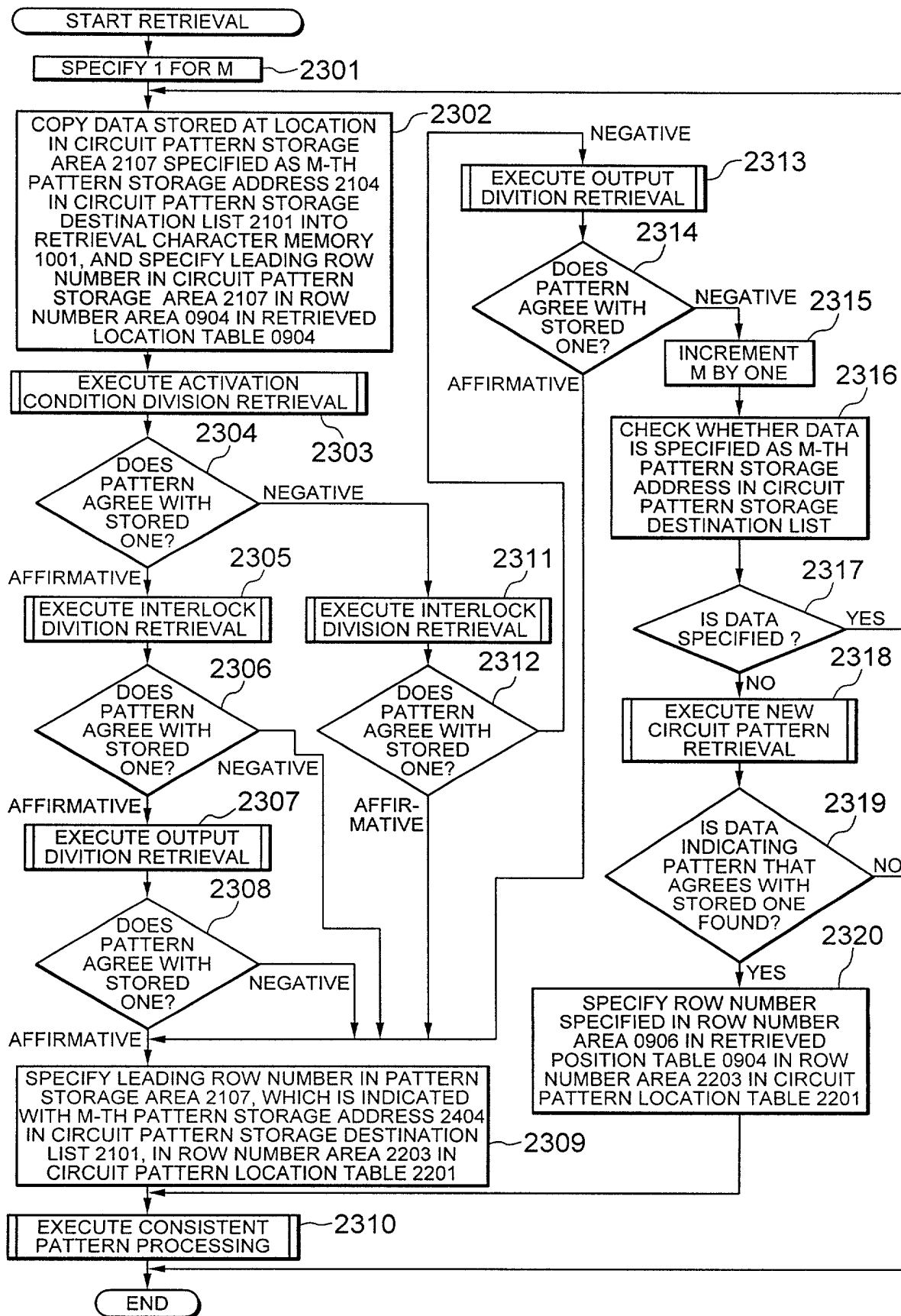


FIG. 37

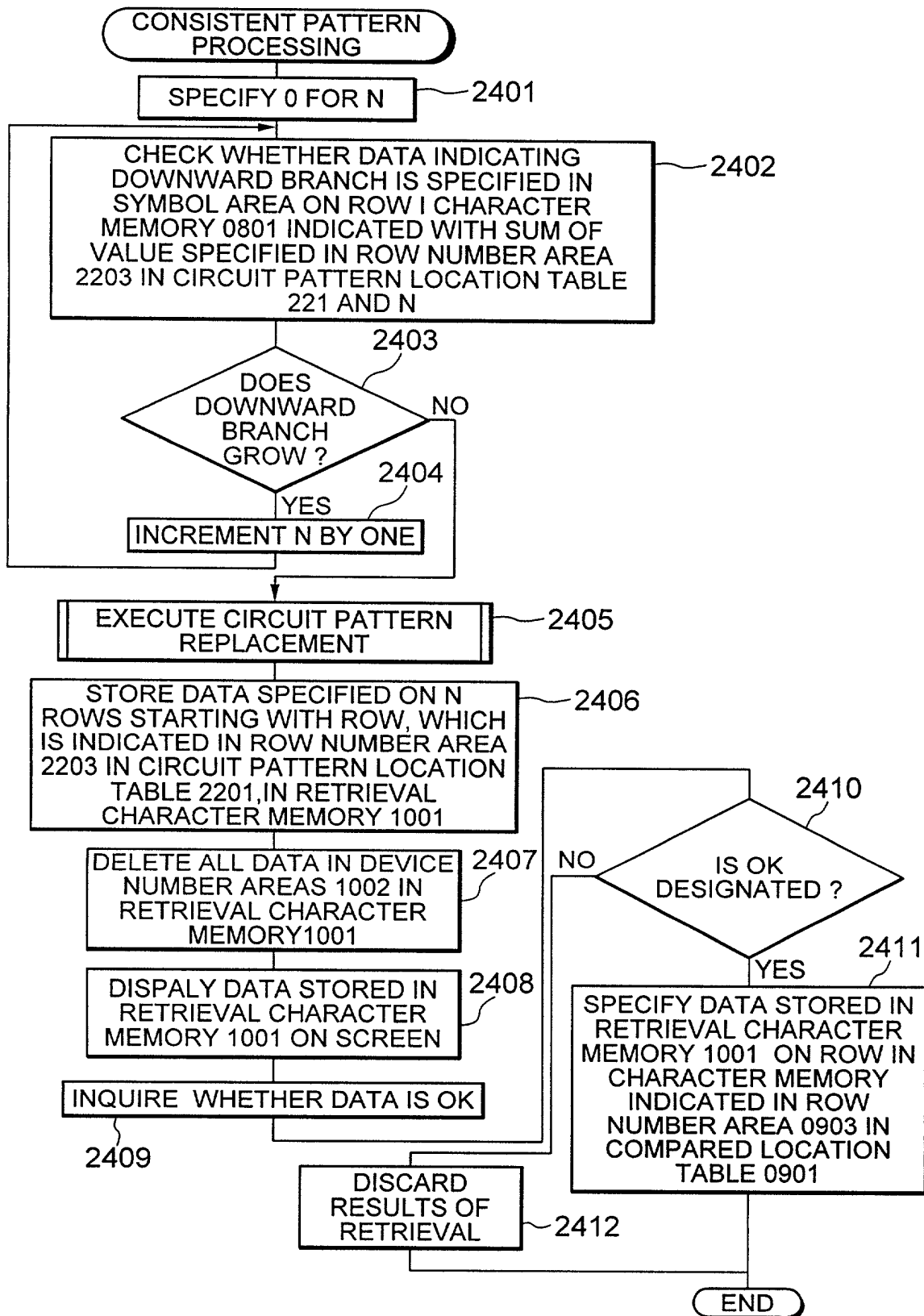
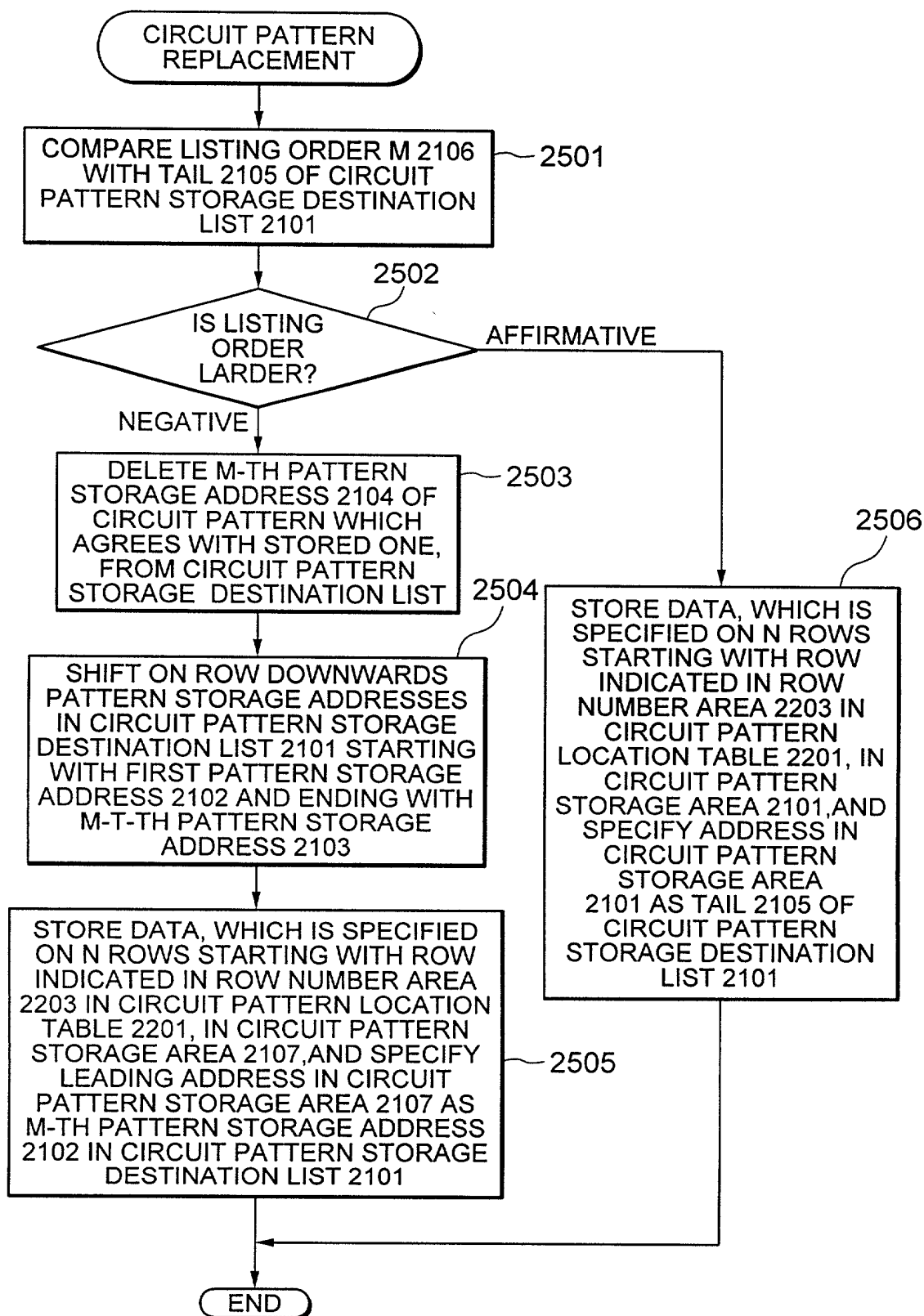


FIG. 38



Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者（下記の名称が複数の場合）であると信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

LADDER CIRCUIT EDITING SYSTEM

上記発明の明細書は、

- ☐ 本書に添付されています。
- ☐ ____月____日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約国際出願番号を____とし、
(該当する場合) ____に訂正されました。

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
_____ and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

Japanese Language Declaration

(日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編119条 (a) - (d) 項又は365条 (b) 項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約365 (a) 項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願

(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)
(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)

私は、第35編米国法典119条 (e) 項に基づいて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
-----------------------------	------------------------

私は、下記の米国法典第35編120条に基づいて下記の米国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国を指定している特許協力条約365条 (c) に基づく権利をここに主張します。また、本出願の各請求範囲の内容が米国法典第35編112条第1項又は特許協力条約で規定された方法で先行する米国特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国出願書提出日以降で本出願書の日本国内または特許協力条約国際提出日までの期間中に入手された、連邦規則法典第37編1条56項で定義された特許資格の有無に関する重要情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

PCT/JP 98/03402	July 30, 1998
-----------------	---------------

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
-----------------------------	------------------------

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
-----------------------------	------------------------

私は、私自信の知識に基づいて本宣言書中で私が行なう表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じることに基づく表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行えば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Claimed
優先権主張

(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes はい	<input type="checkbox"/> No いいえ
(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes はい	<input type="checkbox"/> No いいえ

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)
-----------------------------	------------------------

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

Pending

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況：特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)
--

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況：特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)
--

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Japanese Language Declaration

委任状： 私は、下記発明者として、以下の代理人をここに
 選任し、本願の手続きを遂行すること並びにこれに関する一
 切の行為を特許商標局に対して行うことを委任する。
 (代理人氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby
 appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to
 prosecute this application and transact all business in the
 Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (*list
 name and registration number*)

I hereby appoint John H. Mion, Reg. No. 18,879; Donald E. Zinn, Reg. No. 19,046; Thomas J. Macpeak, Reg. No. 19,292;
 Robert J. Seas, Jr., Reg. No. 21,092; Darryl Mexic, Reg. No. 23,063; Robert V. Sloan, Reg. No. 22,775; Peter D. Olexy, Reg.
 No. 24,513; J. Frank Osha, Reg. No. 24,625; Waddell A. Biggart, Reg. No. 24,861; Robert G. McMorrow, Reg. No. 19,093;
 Louis Gubinsky, Reg. No. 24,835; Neil B. Siegel, Reg. No. 25,200; David J. Cushing, Reg. No. 28,703; John R. Inge, Reg. No.
 26,916; Joseph J. Ruch, Jr., Reg. No. 26,577; Sheldon I. Landsman, Reg. No. 25,430; Richard C. Turner, Reg. No. 29,710;
 Howard L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 25,665; Alan J. Kasper, Reg. No. 25,426; Kenneth J. Burchfiel, Reg. No. 31,333; Gordon Kit,
 Reg. No. 30,764; Susan J. Mack, Reg. No. 30,951; Frank L. Bernstein, Reg. No. 31,484; Mark Boland, Reg. No. 32,197; William
 H. Mandir, Reg. No. 32,156; Scott M. Daniels, Reg. No. 32,562; Brian W. Hannon, Reg. No. 32,778; Abraham J. Rosner, Reg.
 No. 33,276; Bruce E. Kramer, Reg. No. 33,725; Paul F. Neils, Reg. No. 33,102; and Brett S. Sylvester, Reg. No. 32,765, my
 attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and
 request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC, 2100
 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-3202.

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 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037

直通電話連絡先: (名称及び電話番号)

Direct Telephone Calls to: (*name and telephone number*)

(202)293-7060

唯一の又は第一の発明者の氏名	Full name of sole or first inventor	
	Yasunobu IWATA	
同発明者の署名	日付	Inventor's signature Date
		Yasunobu Iwata September 20, 2000
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	Tokyo, Japan	
国籍	Citizenship	
	Japan	
郵便の宛先	Post office address	
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第二の共同発明者の氏名 (該当する場合)	Full name of second joint inventor, if any	
	Taku WATANABE	
同第二発明者の署名	日付	Second inventor's signature Date
		Taku Watanabe September 20, 2000
住所	Residence	
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国籍	Citizenship	
	Japan	
郵便の宛先	Post office address	
	c/o Mitsubishi Denki Kabushiki Kaisha, 2-3, Marunouchi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, TOKYO 100-8310 JAPAN	

(第三又はそれ以降の共同発明者に対しても同様な情報
 および署名を提供すること。)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and
 subsequent joint inventors.)

Japanese Language Declaration

	Full name of third joint inventor, if any Shigeki YAMADA
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国籍	Citizenship Japan
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	Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any Hiroyasu KIMURA
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	Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any Teruyuki HARADA
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住所	Residence Aichi, Japan
国籍	Citizenship Japan
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	Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any Tomoko NAKAMURA
日付	Sixth inventor's signature Y Tomoko NAKAMURA Date September 20, 2000
住所	Residence Aichi, Japan
国籍	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address c/o Mitsubishi Electric Mechatronics Software Co., Ltd., 1071 Higashi-Ozone-cho Kami 5-chome, Kita- ku, Nagoya-shi, AICHI 462-0823 JAPAN

(第六またはそれ以降の共同発明者に対しても同様な情報および署名を提供すること。)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)